

CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

A GUIDE TO BENEFITS
AND PROGRAMS

MAY 2009





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Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Canada's economic action plan – a guide to benefits and programs



Available also on the Internet.

ISBN 978-0-662-06696-5

Cat. no. CP22-96/2009

- 1. Budget-Canada-Handbooks, manuals, etc.
- 2. Finance, Public-Canada-Handbooks, manuals, etc.
- 3. Canada–Economic policy–1991- –Handbooks, manuals, etc.
 - 4. Fiscal policy-Canada-Handbooks, manuals, etc. I. Title.

Cette publication est aussi disponible en français.

HJ2054 C36 2009

352.4'97103

C2009980094-2E

Canada's Economic Action Plan

A Guide to Benefits and Programs May 2009

This guide provides information on the benefits and programs proposed in Canada's Economic Action Plan, as outlined in Budget 2009. It is intended as a tool to support communications and engagement with Canadians, including people and organizations that can potentially benefit from the initiatives, as well as other stakeholders and partners.

Information on benefits and programs has been organized in the following way:

- Initiatives have been grouped in the booklet according to four themes: Further Reducing the Tax Burden on Canadian Individuals, Families and Businesses; Smart Stimulus Measures that Create Jobs; Helping the Canadians That Are Hardest Hit by the Recession; and Strengthening the Financial System and Improving Access to Credit.
- Index 1 allows for a quick reference of initiatives that are of interest to particular groups of Canadians (e.g., homeowners, small businesses, universities and colleges).
- Index 2 presents initiatives according to the government department or agency that is responsible for implementing them.
- Index 3 provides a full alphabetical list of initiatives.

The information provided in this guide reflects the suite of benefits and programs as they stand at the date of publishing. New editions may be published, as required, to reflect changing information. For more regular updates, readers may wish to visit Canada's Economic Action Plan website at actionplan.gc.ca.



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Further Reducing the Tax Burden on Canadian Individuals, Families and Businesses



Extending the Mineral Exploration Tax Credit

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government has extended eligibility for the mineral exploration tax credit for flow-through share investors for one year. The extension applies to flow-through share agreements entered into during the period from April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010. The net cost of this initiative is estimated at \$55 million over the next two fiscal years.

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

Flow-through shares allow companies to renounce or "flow through" tax expenses associated with their Canadian exploration activities to investors, who can deduct the expenses in calculating their own taxable income. Access by investors to the tax benefit helps companies raise equity to fund exploration by enabling them to sell their shares at a premium. The mineral exploration tax credit is an additional benefit available to individuals who invest in flow-through shares.

Under the existing "look back" rule, funds raised in one calendar year with the benefit of the credit can be spent on eligible exploration up to the end of the following calendar year. For example, funds raised with the credit during the first three months of 2010 could support eligible exploration until the end of 2011.

HOW IT WORKS

Individuals investing in flow-though shares are able to claim a 15-percent investment tax credit for eligible mineral exploration expenses that are flowed through to them under a flow-through share agreement. The credit may be claimed when individuals file their tax return.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

All individuals investing in flow-through shares who claim eligible mineral exploration expenses will be able to claim the credit.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the Department of Finance Canada website at www.fin.gc.ca or the Canada Revenue Agency website at www.cra-arc.gc.ca.

First-Time Home Buyers' Tax Credit

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will introduce a First-Time Home Buyers' Tax Credit (HBTC) to help with the purchase of a first home. This measure is expected to cost \$30 million in 2008-2009, \$175 million in 2009-2010 and \$180 million in 2010-2011.

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

The HBTC will assist first-time homebuyers with the costs associated with the purchase of a home, such as legal fees, disbursements and land transfer taxes, which are a particular burden for first-time homebuyers, who must also save for a down payment.

The \$5,000 non-refundable HBTC amount will apply to qualifying homes acquired after January 27, 2009, and will provide up to \$750 in federal tax relief.

A qualifying home is generally considered to be a housing unit located in Canada that the individual or individual's spouse or common-law partner intends to occupy as the principal place of residence no later than one year after its acquisition.

Any unused portion of an individual's HBTC may be claimed by the individual's spouse or common-law partner. When two or more eligible individuals jointly purchase a home, the credit may be shared but the total credit amount claimed cannot exceed \$5,000.

HOW IT WORKS

First-time homebuyers purchasing a home will be able to claim the HBTC on their income tax returns, starting in 2009. Claimants should ensure that documentation supporting the purchase transaction is available if requested by the Canada Revenue Agency. Claimants are also responsible for making sure that all applicable eligibility conditions are met.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

First-time homebuyers are eligible. An individual is considered a first-time homebuyer if neither the individual nor the individual's spouse or common-law partner owned and lived in another home in the year of the home purchase or in any of the four preceding calendar years. Special rules apply for the purchase of homes that are more accessible or better suited to the personal needs and care of an individual who is eligible for the Disability Tax Credit. In these situations, the HBTC can be claimed, even if the first-time homebuyer requirement is not met.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the Department of Finance Canada website at www.fin.gc.ca or the Canada Revenue Agency website at www.cra-arc.gc.ca.

Home Renovation Tax Credit

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will implement a temporary Home Renovation Tax Credit (HRTC) to encourage Canadians to undertake new renovation projects or accelerate planned future projects. This initiative, which will cost an estimated \$3 billion over 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, will provide needed stimulus to the economy.

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

The HRTC is a 15-percent non-refundable tax credit that will apply to eligible home renovation expenditures for work performed or goods acquired after January 27, 2009, and before February 1, 2010, pursuant to contracts entered into after January 27, 2009. The credit may be claimed on the portion of eligible expenditures exceeding \$1,000, but not more than \$10,000, and will provide up to \$1,350 in tax relief.

Renovation expenditures on an eligible dwelling or the land on which it sits will qualify for the HRTC if the renovation is of an enduring nature and integral to the dwelling. For example, homeowners will be able to claim expenditures for major renovation projects, such as finishing a basement, renovating a kitchen or building an addition. Costs associated with such projects will be eligible, including costs for permits, professional services, equipment rentals and incidental expenses. The costs of routine repairs and maintenance, appliances, audio-visual electronics and financing will not be eligible. A dwelling will generally be considered eligible if it is owned and used for personal purposes. Examples of eligible dwellings include a house, a cottage or a condominium unit.

The HRTC will complement support provided by the federal government for Canadians to undertake energy-saving home improvements. Federal grants paid through the ecoENERGY Retrofit program will not reduce the value of claims made for expenditures under the HRTC. Eligible renovation expenses claimed under the Medical Expense Tax Credit may also be claimed under the HRTC.

HOW IT WORKS

Individuals can now undertake renovations that are eligible for the HRTC and may claim the HRTC when filing their income tax returns for 2009. They will need to keep receipts for expenditures.

WHO WILL BENEFIT

An estimated 4.6 million Canadian families will benefit from the HRTC.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the Department of Finance Canada website at www.fin.gc.ca or the Canada Revenue Agency website at www.cra-arc.gc.ca.

Personal Income Tax Relief for All Taxpayers

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is providing significant new personal income tax relief. The measures are effective as of January 1, 2009, and will provide immediate benefits, particularly for low- and middle-income Canadians.

Tax reductions are an essential part of the government's effort to stimulate the economy. Permanent tax reductions also help create a solid foundation for future economic growth, more jobs and higher living standards for Canadians.

These measures will provide tax relief of \$470 million in 2008-2009, \$1,885 million in 2009-2010 and \$1,950 million in 2010-2011.

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

The basic personal amount has been increased to \$10,320 in 2009 from \$9,600 in 2008, allowing individuals to earn more income before paying federal income tax.

The top of the first personal income tax bracket has been increased to \$40,726 in 2009 from \$37,885 in 2008, allowing more income to be taxed at the lowest 15-percent rate, rather than the 22-percent rate.

The top of the second personal income tax bracket has been increased to \$81,452 in 2009 from \$75,769 in 2008, allowing more income to be taxed at the 22-percent rate, rather than the 26-percent rate.

HOW IT WORKS

Many Canadians are seeing the effect of these tax cuts on their pay stubs, based on adjustments to the Canada Revenue Agency's payroll deductions tables.

Taxpayers paying by instalment, including many seniors, can immediately adjust their payments to reflect the changes for the 2009 taxation year.

All other Canadians who pay personal income tax will benefit from these measures when they file their tax return for 2009.

WHO WILL BENEFIT

All Canadians who pay personal income taxes for 2009 and future years will benefit from the tax relief.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please consult the Department of Finance Canada website at www.fin.gc.ca or the Canada Revenue Agency website at www.cra-arc.gc.ca.

Reducing Taxes for Small Businesses

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is further supporting the growth of small businesses by increasing the amount of small business income eligible for the reduced federal income tax rate of 11 percent. The eligible amount rose to \$500,000 from \$400,000. effective January 1, 2009. This initiative will cost an estimated \$45 million in 2009-2010 and \$80 million in 2010-2011.

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

Canada's federal income tax system supports the growth of small businesses through a reduced federal income tax rate of 11 percent on qualifying income earned by Canadian-controlled private corporations. The lower tax rate helps these small businesses retain more of their earnings for reinvestment and expansion, thereby helping to create jobs and promote economic growth in Canada.

HOW IT WORKS

The small business deduction reduces the federal corporate income tax rate applied to the first \$500,000 of qualifying income. The new \$500,000 income limit, generally referred to as the "small business limit" is phased out on a straight-line basis for Canadian-controlled private corporations having between \$10 million and \$15 million of taxable capital employed in Canada. The increase to the small business limit is pro-rated for corporations whose taxation years do not coincide with the 2009 calendar year. The small business limit must be allocated among associated corporations.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Canadian-controlled private corporations that claim the small business deduction are eligible for the measure.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please consult the Department of Finance Canada website at www.fin.gc.ca or the Canada Revenue Agency website at www.cra-arc.gc.ca.

Targeted Tax Relief for Seniors

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is providing additional tax relief for low- and middle-income seniors. This relief is being made available through an increase to the Age Credit, a federal income tax credit for Canadians 65 years of age and older. This initiative will cost an estimated \$80 million in 2008-2009, \$325 million in 2009-2010 and \$340 million in 2010-2011.

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

The Age Credit amount has been increased by \$1,000 for 2009 and subsequent taxation years. For 2009, the Age Credit amount is \$6,408, providing tax relief of up to \$961 for eligible seniors.

The Age Credit is income-tested, with eligibility fully phased out for seniors with incomes over \$75,032 in 2009. The unused portion of an individual's Age Credit may be transferred to the individual's spouse or common-law partner.

The increase in the Age Credit amount builds on the significant tax relief provided since 2006 for seniors and pensioners. This includes a doubling of the amount of the pension income credit (to \$2,000 from \$1,000), a \$1,000 increase in the Age Credit amount in 2006, the introduction of pension income splitting in 2006, and an increase in the age limit for maturing pensions and registered retirement savings plans to 71 from 69 in 2007.

The government has also reduced the required minimum Registered Retirement Income Fund withdrawal for 2008 by 25 percent, as announced in the November 2008 Economic and Fiscal Statement. This measure provides one-time tax relief of \$200 million to seniors to help them cope with the impact of the financial downturn on retirement savings.

HOW IT WORKS

Seniors may request that pension providers or other payors reduce their tax withholding at source, to reflect the higher Age Credit amount. Seniors paying tax by instalment can immediately adjust their payments to reflect the changes for the 2009 taxation year. Other eligible seniors may benefit from this measure when they file their tax return for 2009.

WHO WILL BENEFIT

The increase in the Age Credit amount will provide tax relief to about 2.2 million low- and middle-income seniors who will pay personal income taxes for 2009.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please consult the Department of Finance Canada website at www.fin.gc.ca or the Canada Revenue Agency website at www.cra-arc.gc.ca.

Tariff Relief on Machinery and Equipment

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government proposes to permanently eliminate tariffs applied on a range of machinery and equipment. This initiative will affect close to \$2 billion in annual imports and provide estimated savings of more than \$440 million for Canadian industry over the next five years. The government has also committed to undertaking further consultations with Canadian business to identify additional areas where tariff relief could be provided.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

This tariff relief package on machinery and equipment is designed to lower costs for Canadian producers in a variety of sectors that purchase specialized equipment from overseas to modernize their operations and enhance their competitiveness. These sectors include forestry, energy and food processing.

HOW IT WORKS

The tariff relief on covered imports of machinery and equipment and the related amendments to the Customs Tariff were made effective on January 28, 2009, through the Budget Implementation Act.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Any importer that has imported or will import machinery and equipment covered by the measure on or after January 28, 2009, is eligible for the tariff relief.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the Canada Border Services Agency website at www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/trade-commerce/tariff-tarif/2009/tn38-eng.html.



Smart Stimulus Measures that Create Jobs



Accelerating Approval Processes for Building Canada Plan Projects

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is acting to streamline federal approval processes so that more provincial, territorial and municipal projects under the Building Canada plan can start in the upcoming construction season.

Currently, infrastructure approval processes are subject to duplication and inefficiencies in administration, leading to unnecessary project delays. The government will be introducing changes to the federal regulatory framework through legislative, regulatory and administrative actions to drive efficiencies in assessing environmental and other impacts of infrastructure projects without compromising protection of the environment.

With these changes, the time needed to provide federal approvals for major projects will be shortened by up to 12 months, which will allow construction to begin more quickly.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Legislative amendments have been introduced to the Navigable Waters Protection Act as part of the Budget Implementation Act, including provisions relating to minor works and minor waterways. The proposed amendments reflect the June 2008 recommendations of a Parliamentary Standing Committee that carried out an exhaustive review of the Act.

Regulatory efficiencies have also been introduced for projects subject to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. For example, new regulations are in place to enable federal environmental assessment processes to be substituted by a single provincial assessment that includes the federal requirements set out in the regulations.

The government is also implementing administrative changes to streamline application of the Fisheries Act (e.g. through developing tools, such as operational statements and best management practices for project proponents), and will continue to work diligently to fulfill the legal obligation of the federal Crown to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate with respect to Aboriginal rights and title.

Work to streamline approval processes is ongoing.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

Please visit Canada's Economic Action Plan website at actionplan.gc.ca for up-to-date information.

Accelerating Provincial/Territorial Base Funding for Infrastructure

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is prepared to accelerate the remaining provincial/territorial base funding for infrastructure. Canada's Economic Action Plan includes up to \$1 billion in accelerated payments under Building Canada's Provincial-Territorial Base Fund to expedite ready-to-go infrastructure projects.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The \$2.275-billion Provincial-Territorial Base Fund was established to provide each province and territory with predictable funding of \$25 million per year, over seven years, for a total of \$175 million per jurisdiction by 2014. When matched by funding from the provinces and territories, the Provincial-Territorial Base Fund will result in an investment of at least \$4.5 billion in core infrastructure.

Instead of providing the \$25 million annually to provinces and territories, the Government of Canada is prepared to transfer the full \$175 million to each province and territory over the next two years, subject to matching contributions from the provinces and territories. To address pressing infrastructure needs, the government will also make this funding more flexible, to allow provinces and territories to repair bridges, local roads and secondary provincial highways.

HOW IT WORKS

Provinces and territories will submit an annual capital plan with a list of initiatives for federal cost sharing. The plan will include a brief description of each initiative, the eligible category of investment and the total eligible cost. The federal government will contribute up to 50 percent of the plan's eligible costs for provinces and up to 75 percent for territories.

The Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities accepts the plans provided by the responsible provincial/territorial minister.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Provinces and territories that have signed Provincial-Territorial Base Fund agreements with the Government of Canada and submitted an annual capital plan are eligible.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please consult the Building Canada website at www.buildingcanada-chantierscanada.gc.ca. Information is also available through email at info@infc.gc.ca or by calling the Government of Canada's toll-free information line at 1 800 O-Canada (1-800-622-6232). Mailed inquiries may be addressed to: Infrastructure Canada, 6th Floor, 90 Sparks Street, Ottawa ON K1P 5B4.

Accelerating the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government aims to accelerate activities under the existing Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan (FCSAP) over the next two years. An additional \$80 million will enable accelerated action on site assessments and continued program management. This new funding is also expected to accelerate an estimated \$165 million in environmental remediation/risk management activity on priority federal contaminated sites across Canada.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The FCSAP program was established in 2005 with a commitment of \$3.5 billion over 15 years from the Government of Canada. The program helps federal departments, agencies and consolidated Crown corporations, called "custodians," to manage contaminated sites for which they are responsible. It provides financial assistance to address the environmental and human health risks posed by sites, and also contributes to training and to promoting innovative technologies to clean up or otherwise deal with sites. Since it was established, thousands of sites across Canada have been evaluated. Action is underway or has been completed on more than 700 sites. Accelerating these activities under Canada's Economic Action Plan will increase the demand for more direct and indirect jobs in areas across Canada where these projects are implemented.

HOW IT WORKS

Every year, custodians identify federal contaminated sites according to the risks they may pose to health and the environment. To do this, they consider factors such as the nature and degree of contamination and the sensitivity of the surrounding area. Through FCSAP, projects are ranked using a method that was developed in consultation with engineers and scientists. Funding is then provided to the highest priority projects.

WHO WILL BENEFIT

This investment in cleaning up federal contaminated sites will provide both economic and environmental benefits. Activities funded under this initiative will provide opportunities for professional services firms, construction and drilling firms, material suppliers (both general construction and specialized technology), trucking companies, fuel and power suppliers, outfitting companies, Aboriginal labourers and students, science and engineering graduates, and local labour and businesses (restaurants, hotels) throughout the country. Remediating federal contaminated sites will create new green spaces, healthier bodies of water and cleaner soils.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please consult the Federal Contaminated Sites website at www.federalcontaminatedsites.gc.ca.

Accounts Receivable Insurance for Auto Parts Manufacturers

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is providing support to auto parts manufacturers by improving their access to credit through accounts receivable insurance offered by Export Development Canada (EDC).

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

EDC's accounts receivable insurance provides Canadian exporters with protection against payment default, insolvency and other buyer risks. Accounts receivable insurance also facilitates financing by enhancing the value of the security pledged by exporters for their operating facilities.

EDC's Excess Loss Insurance for Automotive Suppliers protects auto parts suppliers that are contractually bound to a just-in-time delivery schedule from the purchaser's potential insolvency.

EDC also provides financing support to the automotive sector through a range of financing facilities, including loans and guarantees.

In 2008, EDC provided a total of \$4.2 billion in support to the auto sector through its financing and insurance products and services.

HOW IT WORKS

These transactions are generally undertaken in partnership with the applicant company's bank or other commercial lenders, so that EDC's participation can be withdrawn once normal credit conditions are restored.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

All Canadian auto parts manufacturers are eligible to apply for EDC accounts receivable insurance. EDC currently has close to 600 clients in the auto parts sector.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the EDC website at www.edc.ca.

Addressing First Nations' Housing Needs

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is providing \$400 million over the next two years to support on-reserve housing. The initiative targets new social housing projects, remediation of the existing social housing stock and complementary housing activities.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

These funds will flow through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). Of the total amount, \$250 million will be delivered through CMHC over two years to create new on-reserve housing (\$125 million) and to repair and renovate existing federally assisted on-reserve social housing (\$125 million).

The INAC on-reserve housing investment of \$150 million will assist the transition to market-based housing on-reserve and address immediate housing needs.

This investment will provide an economic stimulus for many First Nations communities and rural areas through new jobs, new small businesses and a more skilled workforce.

HOW IT WORKS

The CMHC funding for new construction will be initially allocated to regions through the National First Nations Housing Liaison Committee, made up of representatives from CMHC, INAC and the Assembly of First Nations. The individual First Nation will determine household eligibility and contribute to ongoing project operating costs.

CMHC funding for remediation work will also be initially allocated through the Liaison Committee. based on the proportion of existing CMHC-assisted housing in each region. Eligible projects include repairs, modernization, improvements, regeneration and redevelopment, energy-efficiency upgrades or conversions, and housing-related modifications for persons with disabilities, including additional bedrooms to address overcrowding. It will not include funding for ongoing or routine maintenance.

The INAC on-reserve housing investment of \$150 million will support new construction of high-density developments (e.g., town houses and apartment buildings), lot servicing, renovation of social and market-based housing, and facilitate the transition of band-owned units to market-based housing.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Under the CMHC program, new construction funding is available to First Nations who are eligible for a Ministerial Loan Guarantee. Remediation funding is available for existing housing for which a First Nation has entered into an agreement with CMHC under the On-Reserve Non-Profit Rental Housing Program.

For the INAC portion of the funding, a call for proposals was launched on April 27, 2009. Any on reserve First Nations community may apply.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, visit the CMHC website at www.cmhc.ca or contact a CMHC regional office. For more information on the INAC funding, visit the INAC website at www.inac-ainc.gc.ca or contact an INAC regional office.

Agricultural Flexibility Program

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will implement a five-year, \$500-million agricultural flexibility program that will facilitate the implementation of new initiatives, both federally and in partnership with provinces, territories and industry. This program will help the sector adapt to pressures and improve its competitiveness by funding non-business risk-management measures such as those that will reduce production costs, improve environmental sustainability, promote innovation and respond to market challenges. Budget 2009 allocates \$190 million over two years to support the agricultural flexibility program. The balance will be funded from existing unallocated Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada resources.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Details of this program are being developed. Please visit Canada's Economic Action Plan website at actionplan.gc.ca for up-to-date information.

Arctic Research Infrastructure Fund

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is providing \$85 million to maintain or upgrade key existing Arctic research facilities. This funding complements the government's commitment and plan to build a world-class High Arctic Research Station.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Many research facilities in Canada's North will be upgraded and reinvigorated through this investment. The program will be implemented by organizations that operate existing research facilities in the North. Funding will be distributed through a competitive process open to Aboriginal, academic and not-for-profit organizations as well as all levels of government. A key objective of this program is to provide economic stimulus for Canada's North and to provide funding for research facilities that will create jobs during their construction and subsequent operation. This investment will help ensure that a robust network of research infrastructure is in place to complement the High Arctic Research Station when it becomes fully operational.

HOW IT WORKS

An open call for proposals was conducted by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), which closed on March 4, 2009. With the call for proposals phase complete, funding decisions were announced in late March 2009.

Projects can receive funds for up to two years. It is anticipated that project implementation will begin immediately following funding announcements to ensure that proponents have the required time for effective project planning and delivery.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Funding under the initiative will go to Canadian-owned government, academic or not-for-profit organizations.

With this funding, recipients will initiate two-year investment programs in research facilities, providing economic opportunities for many types of service providers in Canada's North.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit INAC's Arctic Research Infrastructure Fund web page at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca.

Blue Water Bridge Plaza Improvements

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will invest up to \$13.5 million over the next two years at the Blue Water Bridge to reduce traffic congestion and facilitate local border crossings. The Blue Water Bridge ranks as the second busiest Canada-U.S. crossing for trucks and is the fourth busiest for total vehicles. It accounted for approximately 5 million vehicle crossings in 2008, of which 1.5 million were truck crossings.

The plaza improvements include the construction of additional lanes on the approach to the plaza and a truck return road to the U.S. They also include the construction of new Canada Border Services Agency inspection booths, additional signage, and improved lighting and electrical systems. The proposed projects will help reduce traffic congestion and speed up traffic flow, as well as complement recent and planned investments by the U.S. on its side of the border.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Details of this program are being developed. Please visit Canada's Economic Action Plan website at actionplan.gc.ca for up-to-date information.

Broadband Program

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is providing \$225 million over three years to Industry Canada to develop and implement a strategy for extending broadband coverage to all underserved communities beginning in 2009–2010. This proposed spending reflects the government's commitment to closing the broadband gap in Canada by encouraging the private development of rural broadband infrastructure.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Broadband Program is a new initiative that will provide federal funding via a contribution program to increase the availability of broadband Internet services to Canadian households within defined geographic service areas. It is estimated that 93 percent of Canadian households currently have access to a minimum of 1.5-Mbps connectivity. The remaining 7 percent are considered unserved (no access to the Internet or dial-up service only) or underserved (have broadband speeds of less than 1.5 Mbps) and live in remote and rural regions of Canada. The allocated budget will be used to connect as many of these households as possible to broadband services.

The federal government will provide up to 50 percent of project costs for organizations that apply and are selected to deploy broadband infrastructure and services within a defined geographic service area. The other 50 percent of costs, or more, will be borne by the applicants.

Closing the broadband gap in rural and remote Canada will be a sound economic investment. and will provide rural households, businesses and community institutions with Internet service levels comparable to those enjoyed by many urban counterparts. Investments in broadband infrastructure will not only enhance communities' competitiveness but will also create higher value-added jobs and make new business models possible.

HOW IT WORKS

Following an intensive mapping process that will take place from April to June 2009, the Broadband Program will define geographic service areas and issue a call for applications to connect unserved and underserved Canadians living within these specific geographic areas. Part of the mapping will include the identification of areas that will become served through existing provincial/territorial or private sector initiatives, to ensure that the federal program is complementary to existing efforts. Applications will then be evaluated against a number of selection criteria including cost and number of households served. Federal funding will be available from fiscal year 2009-2010 until the end of the program in 2011-2012.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Eligible recipients will be the Canadian private sector, not-for profit organizations, as well as provincial or territorial entities that can demonstrate expertise and capability in managing and implementing broadband networks.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the Industry Canada website at www.ic.gc.ca.

Building a Small Craft Harbour at Pangnirtung, Nunavut

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is investing \$17 million to accelerate the construction of a small craft harbour at Pangnirtung, Nunavut. This harbour will support the further development of the local inshore fisheries, while adding to the community's marine-based transportation links with other Nunavut communities.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Small Craft Harbours Program provides harbour infrastructure to support the commercial fishing industry across Canada. There are approximately 750 core commercial fishing harbours located in all provinces and in the Northwest Territories. These harbours, in addition to serving the fishing industry, also support broad community interests, particularly local transportation and community resupply needs.

HOW IT WORKS

This major capital harbour project is planned to be undertaken over several years, starting in 2009. The plans consist of several discrete components (wharf, breakwater, dredging, floating docks, launch ramp, marshalling area, etc.), to be undertaken separately or in tandem throughout the construction period. The timing of work on some of these components will be subject to the limited local construction season.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

It is expected that opportunities to tender on various project components will be available at either the regional or national levels, depending on the individual component.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please contact Alan Kathan, Regional Director, Central and Arctic Region (Winnipeg, Manitoba), Small Craft Harbours Program, at 204-983-6093.

Canada Foundation for Innovation

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will accelerate investments in leading-edge facilities and equipment through a \$150-million increase to the funding available for successful projects in the 2009 Leading Edge and New Initiatives Funds Competition. Budget 2009 also provides \$600 million for future activities of the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), including the launch of one or more competitions by December 2010 in support of priority areas identified by the Minister of Industry in consultation with the CFI and guided by the Foundation's strategic plan.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Leading Edge Fund (LEF) and New Initiatives Fund (NIF) support the modernization of research infrastructure at Canadian universities, colleges, research hospitals and other not-for-profit research institutions across Canada. Specifically, LEF is for institutions to build on and enhance already-successful and productive initiatives supported by the CFI. NIF supports infrastructure initiatives not previously funded by the CFI, to enable institutions to develop their capacities in promising areas of research and technological development, as well as to improve their research competitiveness and international leadership. The current competition is closed and peer review committees are reviewing the applications. The CFI board of directors will make final decisions on successful applicants in June 2009. The increased funding of \$150 million for this competition means that additional worthwhile projects will receive support.

One or more new CFI competitions will be launched by December 2010, after the CFI has developed a strategic plan. This plan will help shape the nature and focus of the next competition for leading-edge research infrastructure.

HOW IT WORKS

Eligible Canadian research institutions were invited to submit proposals according to specific LEF/NIF objectives. Institutions also had to demonstrate that they had the support of their provincial government and that they had identified other potential funding partners. The CFI funds up to 40 percent of a project's eligible infrastructure costs, such as equipment, buildings, laboratories and research databases. The remaining 60 percent is covered by other funding partners, primarily the provinces, but also the private, not-for-profit and voluntary sectors.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Universities, colleges, research hospitals and other not-for-profit research organizations that carry out world-class research and technology development that benefit Canadians are eligible to apply.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please consult the CFI website at www.innovation.ca.

Canada Health Infoway

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government plans to invest up to \$500 million in Canada Health Infoway. The funding would be used to support the goal of 50 percent of Canadians having an electronic health record by 2010, to speed up implementation of electronic medical record systems in physicians' offices, and to develop electronic systems that connect points of service (e.g., hospitals, pharmacies and community care facilities). Their secure systems would enable authorized health professionals across the country to access patient records quickly and easily.

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

Canada Health Infoway is an independent, not-for-profit corporation established in 2001 to accelerate the development of electronic health information systems (such as electronic health records, telehealth and public health surveillance systems) on a pan-Canadian basis.

HOW IT WORKS

Canada Health Infoway's overarching goal is to ensure that every province and territory, and the populations they serve, will benefit from the electronic health information systems that are helping to transform the Canadian health care system. Canada Health Infoway believes that, by 2010, 50 percent of Canadians will have an electronic health record that authorized professionals who provide their health care services will be able to access. To support the development and implementation of e-health technologies across Canada, Infoway provides funding to a range of partners including the provinces and territories, regional health authorities and vendors.

WHO WOULD BENEFIT

This \$500-million investment would help Canada Health Infoway enhance the safety, quality and efficiency of Canada's health care system, as well as make a significant positive contribution to Canada's economy through the creation of thousands of sustainable, knowledge-based jobs throughout Canada. According to a study commissioned by Infoway, every \$100 million invested in electronic health information and communications technologies will result in 1,525 jobs.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the Canada Health Infoway website at www.infoway-inforoute.ca.

Canada Prizes for the Arts and Creativity

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will establish Canada Prizes for the Arts and Creativity, to bring the world's best new artists from a vast array of art forms to Canada to compete for the title of most promising new artist and for significant cash awards.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Details of this program are being developed. Please visit Canada's Economic Action Plan website at actionplan.gc.ca for up-to-date information.

Canada Wood Export Program

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will provide \$40 million over the next two years to help forestry companies develop markets for wood products internationally. One of the initiatives is the Canada Wood Export Program (Canada Wood).

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Canada Wood funds activities that help Canadian wood producers expand export opportunities for their products in traditional and emerging overseas markets, such as Europe, Japan, China and South Korea.

Activities funded by Canada Wood focus on expanding industry presence in international markets through existing offices in Shanghai, Beijing, Tokyo, Seoul and London; increasing knowledge about wood products among architects, builders and consumers in these markets through activities such as trade fairs and missions; and improving market access for Canadian wood products through activities that address technical barriers to exporting wood. These barriers include phytosanitary issues, building codes and product standards.

Approved activities are cost-shared on a 50/50 basis between Canada Wood and wood product industry associations with support from their respective provinces.

HOW IT WORKS

A call for proposals is issued once a year. Eligible organizations have until late January to submit funding proposals for the following fiscal year (April through March). Proposals are evaluated against specific criteria by a panel of independent experts from the federal and provincial governments. Funding recommendations are then provided to an independent management committee for review and decision. Following final approval, applicants are advised of the results of the evaluation and selection process. Natural Resources Canada staff work with successful recipients to draw up contracts and initiate projects.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Eligible recipients include not-for-profit primary and secondary wood product associations, manufactured housing associations, provinces, provincial Crown corporations and not-for-profit organizations engaged in forest product research.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please contact René Samson, Canada Wood Secretariat, Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada, at 613-947-9063, 613-947-7399 (fax) or woodmarkets@nrcan.gc.ca.

Canadian Television Fund and Canada New Media Fund

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government aims over the next two years to provide the Canadian Television Fund (CTF) with funding of \$200 million and the Canada New Media Fund (CNMF) with funding of \$28.6 million, and with \$14.3 million annually thereafter. This initiative will cost an estimated \$228.6 million in the first two years. In addition, the government will continue to invest \$20.4 million a year from Canadian Heritage's budget for this initiative, bringing the government's total two-year investment to \$269.4 million. Through this investment in the broadcasting and interactive digital media sector, we are contributing to the strength of the Canadian economy and supporting job creation.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The CTF provides funding support to Canadian television productions in various genres, including drama, children and youth, documentary, variety and performing arts in both official languages, as well as Aboriginal languages. The CNMF provides funding support to encourage the creation and development of Canadian interactive digital content products, such as games, webisodes and interactive Internet sites.

The merger of the CTF and the CNMF to the Canada Media Fund (CMF), announced on March 9, 2009, will allow Canadian viewers better access to Canadian programming on all media platforms.

The year 2009-2010 will be one of transition. In order to minimize disruption to the business cycles of both the television and interactive media sectors, the CTF and CNMF will continue to operate under the status quo for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. The reformed and integrated Canada Media Fund will be fully implemented and in place by April 1, 2010.

HOW IT WORKS

For the CTF in 2009-2010, television producers will continue to apply for television funding via broadcaster performance envelopes and the special initiative funding streams.

For the CNMF in 2009-2010, interactive media producers will continue to apply via Telefilm Canada.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

To be eligible for CTF funding support for 2009-2010, Canadian television producers must have a licence agreement with an eligible Canadian broadcaster for a television production in the CTF-supported genres (drama, children and youth, documentary, variety and performing arts).

To be eligible for CNMF funding support for 2009-2010, an applicant must be a Canadian-owned and -controlled company with its operations or head office in Canada. Eligible applicants may apply for funding via one of the following components: product assistance, sectoral assistance and sectoral development.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information on the Canadian Television Fund, please visit the CTF website at: www.ctf-fct.ca/ctf_home_en.html.

For more information on the Canada New Media Fund, please visit the Telefilm Canada website at www.telefilm.gc.ca/03/311.asp?lang=en&fond_id=3.

Canadian Youth Business Foundation

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is providing the Canadian Youth Business Foundation (CYBF) with \$10 million to support and mentor youth entrepreneurs.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The CYBF is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1996 that provides young entrepreneurs with loans and mentoring services. It is difficult for youth entrepreneurs to obtain financing from banks and other traditional sources. The CYBF fills this gap and helps to develop the business leaders of tomorrow.

HOW IT WORKS

The CYBF provides young Canadians who are thinking about becoming entrepreneurs or who are ready to start their businesses with coaching, business resources, start-up financing and mentoring. Under the CYBF loan program, young entrepreneurs can obtain up to \$15,000 in start-up capital. Loan recipients must agree to work with an experienced business volunteer drawn from a pool of mentors assembled by the CYBF.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Entrepreneurs between the ages of 18 and 34, who have demonstrated a commitment to starting or expanding a small business in Canada and agree to work with a mentor, are eligible.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the CYBF website at www.cybf.ca, call toll-free at 1-800-464-2923, or write to the Canadian Youth Business Foundation, 100 Adelaide Street West, Suite 1410, Toronto ON M5H 1S3.

Champlain Bridge

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will begin a comprehensive repair program in summer 2009 for the Champlain Bridge in Montreal. The bridge will remain safe and continue to sustain traffic levels. This 10-year initiative will cost an estimated \$43 million in the first two years and \$169 million over the remaining eight years, for a total of \$212 million.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The repair program includes reinforcing and repairing bridge beams and piers, as well as replacing expansion joints and the roadway deck. The repair program is important because the Champlain Bridge is Canada's busiest bridge and crucial for commercial traffic and public transport. Accelerating the needed repairs will enhance the integrity of the bridge and support trade and competitiveness.

HOW IT WORKS

Jacques Cartier and Champlain Bridge Incorporated (JCCBI) will administer the program. JCCBI will issue multiple contracts for the work and has structured the repair plan to allow the maximum number of contractors to work at the same time without interfering with each other. There will be minimal disruption of traffic because the repairs will be carried out largely beneath the bridge using barges, scaffolding and platforms. Any work on the bridge that requires lane closures will, as far as possible, be carried out at night when traffic volumes are low.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

JCCBI, a Crown corporation, is responsible for managing federal bridges in the Montreal area. It will receive all funding under this initiative, and in turn will issue all contracts or tenders as necessary.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the JCCBI website at www.pjcci.ca.

Clean Energy Fund Program

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is taking action to ensure a healthy environment, including through a new Clean Energy Fund that will provide \$1 billion over five years to support clean energy technologies. This funding includes \$150 million for research, and \$850 million for the development and demonstration of promising technologies, including large-scale carbon capture and storage (CCS) projects.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The research component will fund projects ranging from basic research up to pre-demonstration pilot projects to address gaps in: next generation renewable and clean heat and power systems, advanced grid management technologies; new technologies to address environmental challenges in the oil sands, such as water use and tailings; hydrogen and fuel cells for transportation and stationary applications; and technologies to lower carbon capture and storage costs.

The demonstration component will provide at least \$650 million to fund large-scale carbon capture and storage (CCS) projects in a real-world setting. It will also provide a maximum of \$200 million in funding for smaller-scale, non-CCS demonstration projects (up to \$50 million each) in renewable and alternative energy, including its integration into the electricity grid.

HOW IT WORKS

NRCan will solicit project proposals through announcements on the Natural Resources Canada website.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Eligible recipients will be for-profit and not-for-profit organizations legally incorporated or registered in Canada; corporations; industry associations; research associations; academic institutions; and provincial, territorial and regional and municipal governments and their departments and agencies.

Eligible recipients may be restricted to a subset of the above. For example, the eligible recipients may be restricted to for-profit organizations that could take the technology demonstration to the next stage of development. Any such restriction will be identified in the appropriate solicitation for proposals.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information please contact the Clean Energy Fund at cef-fep@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca.

Communities Component of the Building Canada Fund

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will top up the Communities Component of the Building Canada Fund to accelerate infrastructure projects in small communities. An additional \$500 million has been committed over the next two years, which will be allocated to projects that are ready to start in the next two construction seasons.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Communities Component of the Building Canada Fund recognizes that smaller communities have unique infrastructure needs, and therefore targets projects in communities with populations of less than 100,000. Projects are selected through an application-based process and are evaluated according to how well they meet environmental, economic and quality-of-life objectives.

Projects are cost-shared on a one third basis among federal, provincial and municipal counterparts. Projects related to areas such as safe drinking water, disaster mitigation, brownfield redevelopment, and local roads and bridges are eligible for funding through the Communities Component.

HOW IT WORKS

Municipalities may apply for funding to support infrastructure projects that can be materially completed within two years and that fit into the existing 17 categories of the Communities Component of the Building Canada Fund. Application processes are underway in each province.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Canadian municipalities with populations of less than 100,000, as determined by Statistics Canada's Final 2006 Census, are eligible to apply for funding under the Communities Component. A private sector body or non-profit organization, whose application is supported by a council resolution from the local municipality, can also apply.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the Building Canada website at www.buildingcanada-chantierscanada.gc.ca, contact Infrastructure Canada at info@infc.gc.ca or call the Government of Canada information line toll-free at 1 800 0-Canada (1-800-622-6232). Mailed enquiries should be addressed to Infrastructure Canada, 6th Floor, 90 Sparks Street, Ottawa ON K1P 5B4.

Consulting on Accelerated Capital Cost Allowance for Carbon Capture and Storage

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will consult with stakeholders and interested Canadians to identify specific assets used in carbon capture and storage with a view to providing accelerated capital cost allowance (CCA) for such investments.

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

Carbon capture and storage is a process whereby carbon dioxide emissions from large industrial facilities are captured before they are released into the atmosphere and then stored, typically deep underground. This is a potentially important technology for reducing Canada's greenhouse gas emissions.

Accelerated CCA is used to promote investment in certain clean-energy generation technologies. Advancing the timing of capital cost deductions for tax purposes defers taxation and improves the financial return from investment in particular assets.

HOW IT WORKS

Details on the consultation process and how to participate in it have been posted under the consultations section of the Department of Finance Canada website at www.fin.gc.ca/activty/consult_eng.asp.

WHO WILL BENEFIT

Any interested party will be able to submit their views under the consultation process.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please refer to the consultations section of the Department of Finance Canada website at www.fin.gc.ca/activty/consult_-eng.asp.

Consulting on an Arrivals Duty-Free Program at International Airports

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is consulting interested parties and provinces/territories on the desirability and feasibility of implementing an Arrivals Duty-Free Program at Canada's international airports.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The sale of duty- and tax-free goods to international passengers on arrival at Canadian airports could be a way to enhance the competitiveness of Canada's international airports and generate new sales and jobs. Under an Arrivals Duty-Free Program, individuals arriving in Canada on international flights would be able to buy goods in duty-free shops after they disembark but before going through customs.

The goods available in these arrivals duty-free shops would be similar to those currently available in departure duty-free shops and would include alcohol and tobacco. Goods sold in arrivals duty-free shops would also be relieved of duties and taxes in the same manner as departure duty-free shops.

HOW IT WORKS

Consultations on the suggested measure were launched officially on March 6, 2009, via a Department of Finance Canada press release, and officially closed on May 5, 2009. The government is reviewing and considering the submissions it received and will announce its decision at a future date.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

All interested parties wishing to comment on the suggested measure can submit their views. All provinces and territories will be consulted directly on the suggested measure.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please consult the Department of Finance Canada website at www.fin.gc.ca/n08/09-026-eng.asp. The website contains the press release and backgrounder announcing consultations on the suggested Arrivals Duty-Free Program at Canada's international airports, and includes both a mail and an email address for submissions.

Cultural Spaces Canada

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Over the next two years, Canada's Economic Action Plan will allow the federal government to stimulate the economy through investments in cultural infrastructure by covering certain infrastructure costs of community cultural and heritage institutions. The government is providing a targeted investment of \$60 million over two years.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Cultural Spaces Canada seeks to improve physical conditions for artistic creativity and innovation. It also seeks to increase access for Canadians to performing arts, visual arts, media arts, and to museum collections and heritage exhibitions. The program supports the improvement, renovation and construction of arts and heritage facilities, the purchase of specialized equipment, and the conduct of feasibility studies. Applicants must identify other public or private sources to complete the financing package.

HOW IT WORKS

Applications may be submitted throughout the year to a Canadian Heritage regional office. It is recommended that applicants first discuss the project with a program officer.

Projects that best meet program objectives will be selected through a two-stage process, the first part of which involves a regional analysis to prioritize projects based on assessment criteria and program objectives. Following the regional analysis, projects will be submitted to a National Review Committee that will evaluate them in the context of regional and national strategies that incorporate the distribution of program investments across the country and the national needs of underserved disciplines, communities and groups.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Not-for-profit arts and heritage organizations, provincial, territorial, municipal and regional governments and their agencies, as well as First Nations and Inuit equivalent governments are eligible. Federal agencies and Crown corporations are not eligible for funding.

Applicants must have a clear artistic or heritage focus in their vision or mandate that is reflected in their letters patent, their by-laws and/or other governance documents.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

Visit www.pch.gc.ca/pgm/ecc-csp/index-eng.cfm.

Eastern Ontario Development Program

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is providing \$20 million over two years for the Eastern Ontario Development Program (EODP) to support business and community development in rural areas of Eastern Ontario.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Eastern Ontario Development Program is a contributions program, intended to promote economic development in rural Eastern Ontario. The program—which is currently administered by the Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario (FedNor)—will be administered by the new Southern Ontario development agency, once established. EODP contributes to the successful development of business and job opportunities, as well as sustainable self-reliant communities, by supporting community-based initiatives that attract and retain youth, support skills development, provide access to capital for new and existing businesses, and support technological enhancements.

HOW IT WORKS

The program is delivered through Community Futures Development Corporations in the Eastern Ontario region, which extends east from Durham Region and Algonquin Park and is bounded by the Quebec border. The cities of Ottawa and Kingston are not included.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Non-profit organizations (including municipalities), community development organizations and associations, Aboriginal organizations, entrepreneurs and small to medium-sized businesses located within the boundaries of the 15 rural Eastern Ontario Community Futures Development Corporations may submit applications.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information on eligibility and on how to apply, please contact a local Industry Canada officer. A list of these officers is available from the Industry Canada website at www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/fednor-fednor.nsf/eng/h fn02359.html.

ecoENERGY Retrofit—Homes

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is expanding the ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes program by \$300 million over two years to help property owners make their homes more energy efficient. Effective April 1, 2009, grant amounts have been increased by 25 percent. Homeowners are encouraged to act now to take advantage of this special, limited-time offer. It is estimated that the additional funds will extend the reach of the current program to an additional 200,000 homeowners.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes provides home and property owners with grants of up to \$5,000 to offset the cost of making energy-efficiency improvements. The grants apply to a range of measures that reduce energy consumption and provide for a cleaner environment, from increasing insulation to upgrading a furnace. The maximum grant for property owners with multiple properties is \$500,000.

HOW IT WORKS

Before undertaking any energy-efficiency renovations, the homeowner hires an energy advisor certified by Natural Resources Canada to perform an energy evaluation on the home. The homeownerselects which improvements to do and implements the recommended energy upgrades, leaving time to ensure that the post-retrofit evaluation is completed within 18 months or before March 31, 2011, whichever comes first. The homeowner calls the energy advisor to perform the post-retrofit evaluation, which will confirm the home's new energy rating. The advisor submits the ecoENERGY Retrofit grant application to the Government of Canada. If applicable, the application will also be forwarded to the collaborating provincial and territorial retrofit program for further financial reimbursement. Approved reimbursements are then sent out to applicants.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Owners of single-family homes (detached, semi-detached and low-rise, multi-unit residential buildings that are no more than three storeys high) are eligible. Additionally, owners of some small buildings less than three storeys high, where at least 50 percent of the floor area is used for permanent residences, are also eligible.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the ecoAction website at www.ecoaction.gc.ca/homes. Information is also available from the Government of Canada inquiries line at 1 800 0-Canada (1-800-622-6232), (teletypewriter: 1-800-926-9105).

Enhancing the Accessibility of Federal Buildings

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will over the next two years make additional investments to further enhance the accessibility of federally owned buildings for Canadians with disabilities. This initiative will invest an estimated \$20 million per year for the next two years.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Buildings accommodating departments that directly serve Canadians (e.g., Human Resources and Skills Development Canada/Service Canada, Canada Revenue Agency, and Citizenship and Immigration Canada) will be the first priority. The work will include improvements to exterior routes, visitor parking, drinking fountains and tactile signs.

HOW IT WORKS

Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) will use a mixture of current contractual arrangements and new tenders to deliver these projects. The contracts will be put in place as required on a regional/local basis across the country.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Plans are being developed with PWGSC's private sector service provider to start work as soon as possible in 2009. Additional work will be contracted out, providing opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the PWGSC website at www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/comm/index-eng.html.

Extending Assistance for Canada's Manufacturing and Processing Sector

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is helping Canadian manufacturers and processers by extending the temporary 50-percent straight-line accelerated capital cost allowance (CCA) rate to investment in eligible manufacturing or processing machinery and equipment undertaken in 2010 and 2011.

The two-year extension of the 50-percent straight-line accelerated CCA rate is expected to provide \$320 million of tax relief for Canadian business in 2011-2012, and \$990 million in total over the period 2011-2012 to 2013-2014.

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

The measure will further assist businesses in the manufacturing and processing sector to restructure and retool. In so doing, it will help them to better meet current economic challenges, boost productivity and position themselves for long-term success.

HOW IT WORKS

The CCA system determines how much of the cost of a capital asset a business may deduct each year for tax purposes. Advancing the timing of capital cost deductions for tax purposes defers taxation and improves the financial return from investment in particular assets.

Canadian manufacturers and processors are currently benefiting from the temporary 50 percent straight-line accelerated CCA rate measures announced in Budget 2007 and Budget 2008. Businesses making eligible investments in 2010 and 2011 in manufacturing or processing machinery and equipment will benefit from the two-year extension of this accelerated CCA rate.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

All businesses in the manufacturing and processing sector will be eligible for the temporary accelerated CCA rate for eligible machinery and equipment.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the Department of Finance Canada website at www.fin.gc.ca or the Canada Revenue Agency website at www.cra-arc.gc.ca.

Extending the Life of Multi-Tasked Coast Guard Vessels

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is providing funding to increase the service life of five existing multi-tasked Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) vessels. The funds are part of the \$175 million in funding announced for the Canadian Coast Guard in Budget 2009.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Canadian Coast Guard ships operate on Canada's three oceans and on the Great Lakes. CCG fleet services include aids to navigation, icebreaking, flood control, search and rescue, maritime security, environmental response, and maritime communications and traffic services. The fleet also supports Fisheries and Oceans Canada's science activities and its work in managing and protecting fisheries resources, as well as the non-military activities of other government departments and agencies. When asked to, the CCG fleet also responds to federal maritime priorities and natural or human-made emergencies, such as the Swiss Air disaster.

Extending the working life of the five vessels will allow CCG to maintain its present capacity, while increasing the reliability and availability of these vessels. Work will be undertaken in 2009 on CCGS *Bartlett* stationed in Victoria, British Columbia, CCGS *Tracy* stationed in Quebec City. Quebec, and CCGS *Limnos* stationed in Burlington, Ontario. Work will be undertaken in 2010 on CCGS *Tanu*, stationed in Victoria, British Columbia, and CCGS *Cape Roger*, stationed in St. John's. Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Canadian Coast Guard will expedite work on the vessel life extensions, so that local economies can benefit as soon as possible from new jobs and stronger communities. Work is expected to be completed by March 2011.

HOW IT WORKS

The procurement of equipment and maintenance services for the vessel life extensions is being done using a competitive contracting process. Opportunities to bid are posted on the MERX system. the government's online tendering service.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Eligible contractors include Canadian companies in the shipbuilding industry that have the requisite legal, technical and financial competence.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For information on bid opportunities available through MERX, please visit the MERX website at www.merx.com.

Facilitating the Movement of Goods in International Shipping Containers

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is taking steps to make it easier for Canadian businesses to import and export goods by improving the Customs Tariff rules on temporarily imported cargo containers, and by consulting stakeholders on further liberalizing the use of these containers in Canada.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Budget Implementation Act, 2009 is making two technical modifications to the conditions related to the duty-free and goods and services tax/harmonized sales tax (GST/HST)-free treatment of temporarily imported containers. Specifically, the Act removes the foreign ownership and control restriction applicable to containers and modifies the definition of container to ease the size restrictions.

On February 7, 2009, the government published a notice in Part I of the *Canada Gazette* seeking public consultation on further proposed changes to these conditions, namely to expand the period of time that a container may stay in Canada, and remove the restrictions on the movement of imported containers in Canada. Interested parties had until April 8, 2009, to submit their views.

HOW IT WORKS

The changes that are part of the Budget Implementation Act, 2009 apply to containers temporarily imported on or after January 28, 2009. Regarding the proposed changes notified in the February 7, 2009, edition of the *Canada Gazette*, the government will decide whether to implement the changes based on results of its consultations and its own analysis.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

All importers that are temporarily importing containers are subject to the changes in the Act and will be subject to the potential changes if they are implemented.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please consult the *Canada Gazette* at www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2009/2009-02-07/html/notice-avis-eng.html#d105.

Farm Improvement and Marketing Cooperatives Loans Act

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will amend the Farm Improvement and Marketing Cooperatives Loans Act to help make credit available to new farmers, support intergenerational farm transfers, and modify eligibility criteria for agricultural cooperatives. Currently, credit availability under the Act is limited to existing farmers and product marketing cooperatives fully owned by farmers. These amendments will support the renewal of the sector workforce and enable cooperatives to better seize market opportunities.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Details of this legislative initiative are being developed. Please visit Canada's Economic Action Plan website at actionplan.gc.ca for up-to-date information.

Feasibility Study for the High Arctic Research Station

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is providing \$2 million for a comprehensive feasibility study for the High Arctic Research Station. The study will provide recommendations on location, preliminary costs and operational functionality.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The new station will be a world-class, year-round multidisciplinary facility on the cutting edge of Arctic environmental monitoring and research issues. This initiative will build Canada's knowledge base on the Arctic, strengthen its sovereignty in the region and enhance environmental stewardship. It will also establish Canada as a global leader in Arctic science, which will help ensure the preservation of the Arctic's sensitive ecology. The three candidate locations are Resolute, Cambridge Bay and Pond Inlet.

HOW IT WORKS

The feasibility study will engage northerners, including Aboriginal northerners, in several aspects of the proposed High Arctic Research Station. In particular, they will be consulted on the types of research that should be conducted at the station, how best to integrate traditional knowledge and Western science, and what services the station should offer, such as environmental monitoring and adaptation of technology for the North.

The feasibility study will provide job opportunities through contracts for specific services or products.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Eligibility for the provision of services and products will be communicated once project plans are finalized.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please contact Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Media Relations, at 819-953-1160.

First Nations Schools

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will over the next two years support the construction of 10 new schools and three major school renovation projects in First Nations communities. This initiative will cost an estimated \$200 million.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

This on-reserve school construction and renovation initiative will contribute toward the government's commitment to improving on-reserve student retention and graduation rates. It will also provide economic stimulus to communities by generating short-term employment and business opportunities and will help ensure that education facilities meet existing and future education requirements.

HOW IT WORKS

Individual announcements for each school construction and renovation project will take place in spring 2009. Funding to First Nations for announced projects will be allocated on a project-specific basis after the completion of tendering, and each project will be covered by a separate and unique contribution agreement. A number of the 13 projects will begin in the coming months, with the remainder of the projects starting in 2010.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Funding will be allocated to the 13 First Nations communities whose school construction and/or renovation projects were selected for funding under Budget 2009.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) website at www.inac-ainc.gc.ca or contact an INAC regional office.

First Nations Water and Wastewater Projects

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government plans to support 18 water and wastewater projects in First Nations communities over the next two years. This initiative will cost an estimated \$165 million.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

This water and wastewater initiative will address health and safety priorities in 18 First Nations communities across Canada and accelerate progress on the Plan of Action for Drinking Water in First Nations Communities. It will also provide economic benefits for many First Nations and rural areas through generating new jobs, helping to develop the skilled trades and stimulating the creation of small businesses.

HOW IT WORKS

Individual announcements of each water and wastewater project are scheduled for spring 2009. Funding to First Nations for announced projects will be allocated on a project-specific basis after the completion of tendering through a separate and unique contribution agreement. A number of the 18 projects will begin in the coming months, with the remainder starting in 2010.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Funding will be allocated to the 18 First Nations communities whose water and wastewater projects were selected for funding under Budget 2009.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) website at www.inac-ainc.gc.ca or contact an INAC regional office.

Funding for the Canadian Tourism Commission

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government announced \$40 million over two years for the Canadian Tourism Commission (CTC), including \$20 million for domestic advertising and \$20 million for new activities in priority international markets.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The CTC's additional marketing activities are designed to stimulate the visitor economy over the next two years, attract visitors from the United States and overseas markets, and encourage Canadians to visit and explore all regions of Canada, particularly in the run-up to the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

In particular, the CTC will begin marketing in emerging markets that demonstrate strong potential for Canada. It will accelerate its efforts to attract lucrative meetings and conventions to Canada, encourage Canadians to visit the many world-class destinations here in Canada, and target the high-potential U.S. leisure markets.

HOW IT WORKS

These new program activities have been completely integrated into the core CTC activities through to 2010. The CTC will seek to partner with provincial and territorial governments, other federal departments and agencies, and Canadian private sector and international travel trade and meeting professionals.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

The CTC provides comprehensive partnership opportunities in marketing and promotional activities. Canadian tourism businesses that wish to leverage these stimulus marketing funds can get in touch with the CTC via their website at www.corporate.canada.travel and can register for a weekly e-newsletter to keep abreast of CTC activities and industry news.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the CTC corporate website at www.corporate.canada.travel or call 604-638-8300.

Green Infrastructure Fund

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will provide \$1 billion over five years for a Green Infrastructure Fund (GIF). Green infrastructure includes infrastructure aimed at creating sustainable energy. Targeted investments in green infrastructure should improve the quality of the environment and lead to a more sustainable economy over the longer term.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

This fund is intended to focus on green priorities such as building transmission lines for clean hydro, upgrading wastewater treatment systems, and investing in wind and solar power. Sustainable energy infrastructure, such as modern energy transmission lines, will contribute to improved air quality and lower carbon emissions.

Eligible projects are new or rehabilitation projects that promote cleaner air, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and cleaner water, and that fall within any of the following categories: wastewater infrastructure, green energy generation infrastructure, green energy transmission infrastructure, carbon transmission and storage infrastructure, and solid waste infrastructure.

HOW IT WORKS

The new \$1-billion Green Infrastructure Fund will be allocated based on merit to support green infrastructure projects on a cost-shared basis. The merit of the projects will be assessed based on basic eligibility, financial and legal requirements, and benefits.

Proponents must provide a project proposal that describes the project and its components, presents cost estimates and expected results and benefits, and shows how the project complies with the program's mandatory criteria. Applications will be accepted on a continual intake. To allow more flexibility, projects will not be required to meet either a minimum or maximum threshold in terms of total costs to be eligible for funding.

For all projects selected for funding, eligible recipients will enter into contribution agreements with Canada. These agreements will outline eligible and ineligible costs as well as federal costsharing and limits. The GIF supports both large-scale, strategic infrastructure, as well as smaller, community-based projects.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Eligible recipients include provinces, territories, local or regional governments, public sector bodies, and not-for-profit and for-profit private sector entities, either alone or in partnership with a province, territory or a government.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the Building Canada website at www.buildingcanada-chantierscanada.gc.ca, contact Infrastructure Canada at info@infc.gc.ca or call the Government of Canada's information line toll-free at 1 800 O-Canada (1-800-622-6232). Mailed inquiries should be addressed to Infrastructure Canada, 6th Floor, 90 Sparks Street, Ottawa ON K1P 5B4.

Helping Businesses in All Sectors Invest in Computers

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is helping businesses in all sectors of the economy by providing a temporary 100-percent capital cost allowance (CCA) rate on new computer hardware and systems software acquired after January 27, 2009, and before February 1, 2011. This initiative will cost an estimated \$340 million in 2009-2010 and \$355 million in 2010-2011.

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

The CCA system determines how much of the cost of a capital asset, such as a new computer, a business may deduct each year for tax purposes. The temporary 100-percent CCA rate on new computer hardware and systems software will encourage and assist businesses to increase or accelerate investment in computers. This will help boost Canada's productivity through the faster adoption of newer technology.

HOW IT WORKS

The regular CCA rate on computer hardware and systems software is 55 percent, subject to the half-year rule that restricts CCA deductions to one half of the CCA deductions otherwise available in the first year. The new temporary 100-percent CCA rate will allow businesses to fully deduct the cost of eligible computers in just one year because the half-year rule will not apply.

New general-purpose electronic data processing equipment and systems software that are acquired by a taxpayer for use in a business in Canada are eligible. This includes ancillary data processing equipment and systems software.

WHO WILL BENEFIT

Businesses in all sectors of the economy, including the service sector, will benefit from this initiative.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the Department of Finance Canada website at www.fin.gc.ca or the Canada Revenue Agency website at www.cra-arc.gc.ca.

Helping Municipalities Build Stronger Communities

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is making available up to \$2 billion over two years in direct, low-cost loans to municipalities for municipal housing-related infrastructure serving residential areas (new or existing). The loans will be delivered through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

This new source of funds will allow municipalities to invest in municipal housing-related infrastructure projects, thus contributing to healthier, safer and more modern communities for Canadian individuals and their families. Eligible municipal infrastructure projects would include, for example, infrastructure related to the provision of required housing services such as water, wastewater and solid waste services; power generation; local transportation infrastructure such as roads, bridges and tunnels within or into residential areas; and residential sidewalks, lighting, pathways, landscaping and green space.

The interest rates on loans to municipalities will reflect CMHC's risk-adjusted borrowing costs. The standard term offering will be 15 years. Loan prepayments will not be permitted.

These loans will be for ready-to-go projects. They are intended to help maintain existing jobs as well as create new construction jobs quickly, while improving living conditions in Canadian municipalities. Municipalities will also be able to use the loans to fund their contribution for cost-shared federal infrastructure programming.

HOW IT WORKS

Loan applications from municipalities across Canada will be approved on a first-come, first-served basis if proposals meet eligibility requirements. CMHC will work to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of available funds. No new loans will be made after March 31, 2011. Eligible costs may include items such as the cost of planning and design, capital costs of work covered by the plans and specifications of the project, amounts paid for legal services, and interest paid during construction.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Municipalities across Canada with ready-to-go projects may apply online through CMHC's website.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information or to make an application, municipalities can visit CMHC's website at www.cmhc.ca.

Housing for Low-Income Seniors

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is providing \$400 million over two years to build new housing for low-income seniors who have difficulty finding affordable and suitable housing.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Funding will be delivered through amendments to existing agreements with provinces and territories under the Affordable Housing Initiative, and will be cost-shared with the provinces and territories on a 50/50 basis. Initial funding allocations will be based on each province's and territory's share of Canada's total population in 2006.

This investment will improve the quality of life of low-income seniors by providing new, affordable rental housing and will help address Canada's climate change goals by ensuring that funded projects are energy efficient.

HOW IT WORKS

The funding targets housing for senior households who would qualify to be on a social housing waiting list. The housing must be suitable for seniors, as determined by the minimum age limits set out by each province and territory. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and the provincial or territorial housing agencies will determine appropriate energy-efficiency standards for the housing.

To maximize job creation, only new rental housing units, conversion of non-residential premises. or acquisition of existing buildings with significant repair or retrofit needs will qualify for funding. The federal funding will cover 50 percent of capital costs to a maximum federal contribution of \$75,000 per unit, and will not cover commercial or institutional premises or care facilities. The federal government will not be responsible for any operating or ongoing costs. Provinces and territories must require that the housing remain affordable for at least 10 years.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

The program will benefit low-income senior households who are on, or who qualify to be on, a social housing waiting list. Provinces and territories will be responsible for program delivery and for approving applications for funding from municipalities, not-for-profit organizations or private sector developers.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

Once agreements are in place, provinces and territories will provide program information to potential project sponsors and senior households. Information will also be available on CMHC's website www.cmhc.ca at the same time.

Housing for Persons with Disabilities

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is providing \$75 million over two years to build housing units for persons with disabilities and help them live more independently.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Funding will be delivered through amendments to existing agreements with provinces and territories under the Affordable Housing Initiative, and will be cost-shared with the provinces and territories on a 50/50 basis. Initial funding allocations will be based on each province's and territory's share of Canada's total population in 2006.

This investment will improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities, who often have difficulty finding housing that is suitable for their specific needs. It will also help to address Canada's climate change goals by ensuring that funded projects are energy efficient.

HOW IT WORKS

The housing must be targeted to households who are on, or would qualify to be on, a social housing waiting list and include a person with a disability. The definition of a "person with a disability" will be determined by the province or territory. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and the provincial/territorial housing agencies will work together to determine appropriate energy-efficiency standards for the housing.

To maximize job creation, only new rental housing units, conversion of non-residential premises to residential, or acquisition of existing buildings with significant repair or retrofit needs will qualify for funding. The federal funding will cover 50 percent of capital costs to a maximum federal contribution of \$75,000 per unit, and will not cover commercial or institutional premises or care facilities. The federal government will not be responsible for any operating or ongoing costs. Provinces and territories must require that the housing remain affordable for at least 10 years.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

The program will benefit low-income households who are on, or who qualify to be on, a social housing waiting list and include a person with a disability. Provinces and territories will be responsible for program delivery and for approving applications for funding from municipalities, not-for-profit organizations or private sector developers.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

When agreements are in place, provinces and territories will provide information to potential project sponsors. In addition, information will also be available on CMHC's website at www.cmhc.ca at the same time.

Improvements to National Capital Area Bridges

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government aims over the next two years to improve the two vehicle tunnels on the Ottawa approach to the Portage Bridge, as well the Kingsmere Road Overpass in the Gatineau Park in Quebec. The rehabilitation of these structures will cost an estimated \$1 million in 2009-2010 and \$1 million in 2010-2011.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The funds will be used to repair deteriorated tunnel and bridge components to optimize their life cycle and eliminate public safety hazards. The National Capital Commission will provide additional funding of \$330,000 for the tunnel rehabilitation in 2009-2010.

HOW IT WORKS

The \$2 million announced in Budget 2009 will be allocated to the National Capital Commission to fund bridge rehabilitation projects in the National Capital Region.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

As the recipient of the funding, the National Capital Commission will be managing the funds and contracting with individual design and construction firms.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information on these projects, please visit the National Capital Commission website at www.ncc-ccn.ca/bins/index.asp.

Improving Canada's Competition and Investment Policy Frameworks

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Further to Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government has strengthened Canada's competition and investment framework policies. Legislative amendments to the *Competition Act* and the *Investment Canada Act* received Royal Assent as part of Bill C-10 on March 12, 2009.

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

These legislative amendments will improve Canada's competition and investment laws and policies by protecting consumers from anti-competitive and deceptive business practices, attracting foreign investment and safeguarding national security. These improvements build on the recommendations of the Competition Policy Review Panel Report released in June 2008. They will create Canadian employment opportunities by attracting foreign investment, strengthening competition, stimulating innovation and improving productivity.

HOW IT WORKS AND WHO CAN BENEFIT

Changes to the *Investment Canada Act* will encourage new foreign investment, increase transparency and predictability, and introduce a national security review process. Thresholds for net benefit reviews of foreign investments will be gradually increased to focus on the most significant investments. As a result, Canada will benefit through more and better-paying jobs, greater access to foreign capital and enhanced consumer choices. These changes will enable Canada to enjoy the benefits of foreign investment while ensuring that new investments do not jeopardize national security.

Changes to the *Competition Act* will protect consumers and businesses from anti-competitive behaviour and improve Canada's business climate by toughening anti-cartel laws and introducing a two-stage merger review process. The proposals will increase penalties and fines and allow the Competition Bureau to more effectively prosecute anti-competitive activity. They will streamline Canada's process for reviewing mergers and bring it in line with international standards. They will also deter misleading advertising and mass-marketing fraud by introducing tougher penalties.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please consult the Competition Bureau website at www.competitionbureau.gc.ca/eic/site/cb-bc.nsf/eng/home or the Industry Canada (Investment Review Division) website at www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/ica-lic.nsf/eng/home.

Improving Parks Canada's National Historic Sites and Visitor Facilities

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government aims, over the next two years, to upgrade Parks Canada's national historic sites and visitor facilities, such as campgrounds and visitor centres. This initiative will cost an estimated \$142 million.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The program involves major capital repairs to visitor infrastructure at national parks and national historic sites, and to cultural assets at national historic sites and historic canals managed by Parks Canada.

Direct economic benefits will come from employment in the construction sector and from the acquisition of building materials and rental of construction equipment. Spin-off economic activity is expected through visitor spending at Parks Canada and commercial facilities in and adjacent to the parks and sites.

HOW IT WORKS

The work will be carried out on behalf of Parks Canada by engineering design consultants and construction contractors.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

All work will be publicly tendered and awarded through contracts. Opportunities to submit bids for contracts will be posted on the MERX system, the government's online tendering service.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For information on bid opportunities available through MERX, please visit the MERX website at www.merx.com.

Improving Rail Safety

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government aims to invest in new measures to improve railway safety (\$44 million) and to enhance the Grade Crossing Improvement Program (\$28 million) over five years.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Budget 2009 funding will support the implementation of new rail safety initiatives by Transport Canada. These initiatives will enhance its regulatory oversight and enforcement capacity, and enable it to conduct research and development projects to advance new rail safety technologies.

Budget 2009 will also support enhancements to the Grade Crossing Improvement Program (GCIP), a nationwide program that contributes up to 80 percent of the cost of railway work aimed at improving the safety of public grade crossings. The objective of this contribution program is to reduce the number of accidents, injuries and deaths at grade crossings.

HOW IT WORKS

Applications for GCIP contributions must include information about the location, a description of the work, a detailed estimate of cost, a plan of any proposed roadwork, and a description of how this work would improve safety. Typically, 80 to 100 applications for grade crossing improvements are approved annually.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Eligible recipients include road authorities (e.g., provinces, municipalities or other entities with authority to build and maintain roads for public use) and federally regulated railways.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information about rail safety in Canada, please visit the Transport Canada website at www.tc.gc.ca/RailSafety/Menu.htm.

For more information about the Grade Crossing Improvement Program, please visit the Transport Canada website at www.tc.gc.ca/RailSafety/Publications/FinancialAssistance.htm.

Improving the Peace Bridge Plaza

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will invest up to \$1 million over the next two years at the Peace Bridge to reduce traffic congestion and facilitate local border crossings. The Peace Bridge is the second busiest Canada-U.S. crossing for vehicles, with over 6 million total crossings in 2008, and the third busiest for truck crossings, with approximately 1.2 million truck crossings that year.

The Government of Canada's investments at this bridge will accelerate construction of the planned projects. Work will start in summer 2009 and be completed over two years, providing much-needed stimulus and economic activity in the Fort Erie area.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Details of this program are being developed. Please visit Canada's Economic Action Plan website at actionplan.gc.ca for up-to-date information.

Increasing Withdrawal Limits Under the Home Buyers' Plan

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is providing first-time homebuyers with additional access to their registered retirement savings plans (RRSPs) for home purchases, by increasing the Home Buyers' Plan (HBP) withdrawal limit. This initiative will cost an estimated \$15 million annually.

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

The HBP allows first-time homebuyers to withdraw amounts from an RRSP to purchase or build a home without having to pay tax on the withdrawal. The \$5,000 increase in the HBP withdrawal limit—to \$25,000 from \$20,000—will apply to withdrawals made after January 27, 2009. This is the first increase in the withdrawal limit since the HBP was introduced in 1992. It will allow a couple to withdraw up to \$50,000 from their RRSP funds toward the purchase of their first home.

Amounts withdrawn are repayable in installments over a period not exceeding 15 years, starting the second year following the year the withdrawal was made.

HOW IT WORKS

First-time homebuyers can visit their financial institution to withdraw RRSP funds under the HBP.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

First-time homebuyers are eligible. An individual is generally considered a first-time homebuyer if neither the individual nor the individual's spouse or common-law partner owned and lived in another home in the year the HBP withdrawal is made, or in any of the four preceding calendar years.

Special rules apply for the purchase of homes that are more accessible or better suited to the personal needs and care of an individual who is eligible for the Disability Tax Credit. In these situations, withdrawals may be made under the HBP, even if the first-time homebuyer requirement is not met.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the Department of Finance Canada website at www.fin.gc.ca or the Canada Revenue Agency website at www.cra-arc.gc.ca.

Industrial Research and Development Internship Program

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government aims over the next two years to create an additional 600 graduate internships in science and business. This initiative will cost \$3.5 million.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Industrial Research and Development Internship (IRDI) program places graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in businesses to undertake research that addresses practical business problems. It gives student interns an opportunity to apply their research skills to real-world challenges, allows companies to benefit from the intellectual capital within Canada's universities and facilitates increased private investment in R&D.

The IRDI program is delivered by MITACS, a network of Centres of Excellence, through its ACCELERATE Canada program. The program targets all academic disciplines. Interns, under the supervision of a faculty supervisor, undertake a four- or eight-month project that investigates a research challenge experienced by the host company. One half of the intern's time is spent on site, interacting with staff, collecting data and further understanding the challenge. The remainder of the intern's time is spent at university, developing a new tool, technique, methodology or solution to address the research challenge. An intern's stipend is a minimum of \$10,000, and companies share the cost of hosting the internships with the IRDI program. Funding also comes from provincial, university and other partners.

HOW IT WORKS

Graduate students interested in internships may apply to MITACS ACCELERATE at any time. Applications are short and quick to complete. Companies wishing to host an intern may submit proposals to MITACS ACCELERATE at any time. Decisions on a proposal's approval are usually made within three to five weeks.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Eligible interns are graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in any area of research who are enrolled in a Canadian institution that is eligible to receive and manage funds under the guidelines of the federal granting agencies, provided that their skills are sought by the participating firm to support innovation.

Host companies must be private sector enterprises.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information about the IRDI, please visit the Networks of Centres of Excellence website at www.nce.gc.ca/comp/IRDI/irdi_e.htm. For information on applying for an internship or hosting an intern, please visit the MITACS ACCELERATE website at www.mitacsaccelerate.ca.

Industrial Research Assistance Program and **Youth Employment Program**

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is providing additional funding to the National Research Council's Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP) to enable it to temporarily expand its initiatives for small and medium-sized enterprises. NRC-IRAP will receive total additional funding of \$200 million over two years, starting in 2009-2010. From this incremental funding, the program will provide \$170 million over two years for contributions to companies. Another \$30 million will help companies hire over 1,000 new post-secondary graduates.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

NRC-IRAP is a well-established, national program that helps Canadian small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) by providing them with direct financing to support their innovation projects and by offering other innovation assistance, such as technical and business advice. It also provides financial support to organizations that provide complementary and needed innovation services to Canadian SMEs. The NRC-IRAP Youth Employment Program provides financial assistance to innovative small and medium-sized enterprises in Canada to hire post-secondary graduates for up to one year.

HOW IT WORKS

NRC-IRAP's 240 industrial technology advisers (ITAs) and other staff deliver the NRC-IRAP program to SMEs in over 100 Canadian communities, in all provinces and territories. ITAs work with individual firms to identify their needs and direct them to appropriate assistance and linkages. They also help clients in developing proposals for financial assistance for projects and in hiring graduate interns, and they provide valuable technical advice.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Eligible recipients are any incorporated for-profit companies operating in Canada that depend on innovation and technology for their development and growth. They must demonstrate that their innovative projects have potential benefits for Canada.

A graduate hired under the Youth Employment Program must be:

- between 15 and 30 years of age (inclusive);
- a university or college graduate;
- a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or have refugee status;
- · legally entitled to work; and
- a first-time participant in a Youth Employment Strategy work experience program targeted at post-secondary graduates.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please contact NRC-IRAP toll-free at 1-877-994-4727.

Infrastructure at Ports of Entry

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is providing funding to accelerate the modernization and expansion of Canada Border Services Agency facilities at Prescott, Ontario. and at Huntingdon, Kingsgate and the Pacific Highway in British Columbia. The initiative will cost an estimated \$70 million, and construction at all sites is scheduled for completion in March 2012.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

More than 30,000 commercial trucks cross the Canada-U.S. border every day, and 60 percent of Canada's infrastructure trade crosses the land border, either by road or rail. The federal government's investment in modernizing port-of-entry facilities will help ensure that Canada's shared border with the U.S. remains secure and efficient. It will also help reduce congestion at ports of entry by cutting processing time for thorough inspections of commercial shipments.

HOW IT WORKS

The expansion and construction of the required port infrastructure is planned to be delivered in two phases. The first phase would entail hiring architectural and engineering consultants to prepare site plans and help develop the construction contracting documentation. The second phase would focus on expanding the commercial examination facilities at Pacific Highway and Huntingdon, and on building the complete port infrastructure at Prescott and Kingsgate.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

All qualified consultants and contractors would be eligible to bid on the contracts. The contracts would be issued primarily through MERX, and all will be managed in accordance with appropriate government policies and procedures.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For information on bid opportunities available through MERX, please visit the MERX website at www.merx.com.

For more information, please contact:

Claude Béland
Director General, Infrastructure and Environmental Operations
Comptrollership Branch
Canada Border Services Agency
Ottawa ON K1A OL8
613-941-7905
Fax: 613-954-0503

Claude.Beland@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca

Infrastructure at Remote Ports of Entry

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is providing funding for Canada Border Services Agency infrastructure in Yukon and northern British Columbia. The funding will be used to build staff housing at Little Gold and Beaver Creek in Yukon and Pleasant Camp in British Columbia. The initiative will cost an estimated \$10 million, and construction is scheduled for completion in March 2011.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

In August 2006, the Prime Minister outlined the government's plan to improve border security. As part of that commitment, the government will hire, train and equip 400 new permanent border services officers to ensure that officers do not have to work alone. The construction of staff housing in Yukon and northern British Columbia will help eliminate the work-alone situations at remote northern ports, where suitable residential accommodation is limited by the absence of communities of significant size.

HOW IT WORKS

The construction of the required residential accommodation is planned to be delivered in two phases. The first phase would entail hiring an architectural and engineering consultant to prepare site plans and help develop the construction contracting documentation. The second phase would focus on the construction and installation of the housing units.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

All qualified consultants and contractors would be eligible to bid on the respective contracts. The contracts will be issued and managed in accordance with appropriate government policies and procedures.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please contact:

Claude Béland
Director General, Infrastructure and Environmental Operations
Comptrollership Branch
Canada Border Services Agency
Ottawa ON K1A OL8
613-941-7905
Fax: 613-954-0503

Claude.Beland@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca

Infrastructure Stimulus Fund

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government has established a new \$4-billion Infrastructure Stimulus Fund (ISF) that provides funding to provincial, territorial and municipal construction-ready infrastructure rehabilitation projects. Funding is available for two years for projects that begin during the 2009 and 2010 construction seasons.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The ISF complements existing federal infrastructure funding by targeting short-term objectives for economic stimulus. To further this goal of rapid economic stimulus, the ISF will focus mostly on construction-readiness and the extent to which the funding will maintain the safety and prolong the life of the asset, as important project selection criteria. The full \$4 billion will be distributed in fiscal years 2009-2010 and 2010-2011. Projects will include the rehabilitation of existing assets such as water and wastewater infrastructure, public transit, highways, roads, cultural facilities, parks, trails and municipal buildings. Some variations in eligible projects exist depending on the recipient of the project funding.

HOW IT WORKS

Projects must satisfy program criteria and be confirmed in a funding agreement. Provincial and territorial projects will be identified through discussions with provincial and territorial governments. Proposals from municipal and non-governmental organizations will be considered through different selection processes in consultation with each province and territory. Details will be announced shortly in each province and territory.

The program provides federal funding of up to 50 percent of eligible project costs for provincial, territorial and municipal government assets and not-for-profit private sector assets, with preference for municipal and not-for-profit assets requiring only up to 33 percent federal funding. The program provides funding of up to 25 percent for for-profit private sector assets. Projects receiving funding under the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund must complete construction by March 31, 2011.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Eligible recipients include provinces, territories, local governments and not-for-profit or for-profit private sector entities.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please consult the Building Canada website at www.buildingcanada-chantierscanada.gc.ca, contact Infrastructure Canada at info@infc.gc.ca or call the Government of Canada's toll-free information line at 1 800 0-Canada (1-800-622-6232). Mailed inquiries should be addressed to Infrastructure Canada, 6th Floor, 90 Sparks Street, Ottawa ON K1P 5B4.

Institute for Quantum Computing

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will provide \$50 million over five years, starting in 2009-2010, to the University of Waterloo to support the construction and establishment of a quantum computing research facility. The new Institute for Quantum Computing will contribute to achieving the goals of the government's science and technology strategy.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

This infrastructure project puts Canadians to work and will provide a stimulus to the local community. The Institute for Quantum Computing will be a state-of-the-art research facility that will enhance Canada's research capacity and help recruit and retain the brightest minds in quantum physics. It will also provide a world-class educational experience for the highly skilled workers of tomorrow.

HOW IT WORKS

The Institute for Quantum Computing will brand Canada as the international centre for research in quantum technologies. It will develop quantum applications and devices (i.e., quantum computers to replace the present generation of computers), and also provide outreach activities to the general public and to students of all ages.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

The University of Waterloo will receive this money on behalf of the Institute for Quantum Computing.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the Institute for Quantum Computing website at www.iqc.ca or call the general contact line at 519-888-4021.

Investing in Atomic Energy of Canada Limited

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is providing \$351 million to Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) in 2009-2010.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

AECL is a federal Crown corporation that specializes in a range of advanced nuclear energy products and services, and works with Canada's diverse nuclear industry.

HOW IT WORKS

The new funding will be used to support AECL's operations, including the development of its latest reactor design (the Advanced CANDU Reactor-1000), and to maintain safe and reliable operations at the Chalk River Laboratories in Chalk River, Ontario.

Part of the new funding will go toward accelerating AECL's on-going capital investment plan at Chalk River Laboratories. Activities include investments in wastewater facilities, nuclear waste storage facilities, electricity supply, equipment replacement/refurbishment, and the construction and refurbishment of buildings.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Any contracts or tenders for activities funded under this initiative will be issued by AECL. AECL issues requests for tenders and proposals from its company-approved suppliers list. Suppliers interested in being considered for this list should submit their general company information via www.aecl.ca/Commercial/SupplyChain.htm.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information about AECL, please visit the AECL website at www.aecl.ca.

Investing in Federal Bridges

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government aims to accelerate needed repairs to federal bridges to strengthen the integrity of federal infrastructure. Under this initiative, Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) will invest over \$40 million over the next two years in repairs to four federally owned bridges.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The funding will be used to accelerate the rehabilitation of the following bridges: Alexandra Bridge (Ottawa/Gatineau), Burlington Lift Bridge (Burlington), Chaudière Crossing (Ottawa/Gatineau) and the LaSalle Causeway (Kingston).

HOW IT WORKS

This funding will enable PWGSC to strengthen the integrity of key infrastructure and make a positive contribution to the Canadian economy. Construction contracts have been awarded for the Alexandra Bridge and LaSalle Causeway. Other contracts will be awarded over the coming months for work on the remaining bridges.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

The construction sector is eligible to bid on requests for proposals, which will be posted on the Merx electronic tendering site at www.merx.com.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the PWGSC website at www.pwgsc-tpsgc.gc.ca.

Investing in Federal Buildings

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government aims over the next two years to repair and restore federally owned infrastructure. Under this initiative, Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) will invest in excess of \$320 million in the federal building portfolio across Canada.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

This funding will allow PWGSC to strengthen the integrity of key infrastructure across the country and make a positive contribution to the Canadian economy. PWGSC is reviewing its portfolio of 350 buildings to identify work that will be undertaken with the infrastructure funding.

HOW IT WORKS

A number of repairs will be conducted through PWGSC's private sector service provider, which will in turn contract out work to small and medium-sized enterprises. Work will also be directly contracted out by PWGSC, providing additional opportunities for firms to bid for the contracts.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

PWGSC's private sector service provider and small and medium-sized enterprises will be eligible to complete this work.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the PWGSC website at www.pwgsc-tpsgc.gc.ca.

Investing in Inter-City Passenger Rail Services

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government aims to improve Via Rail services in Canada through upgrades to rail line infrastructure and passenger cars and locomotives. Budget 2009 provides \$407 million for these upgrades.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

VIA Rail Canada provides passenger rail services in eight provinces. The new funding will enable VIA to install a third mainline track along parts of Canadian National Railway's Montreal-Toronto main line; revise track layouts at Brockville and Belleville, Ontario; undertake work on VIA-owned tracks between Coteau, Quebec, and Ottawa, and between Chatham and Windsor, Ontario; and undertake projects to refurbish and upgrade locomotives, cars, stations, maintenance facilities and computer systems.

VIA will post information on its website as contracts are awarded and projects begin.

HOW IT WORKS

VIA Rail Canada will develop the necessary specifications for each project and will oversee the work, which will be performed either by VIA employees or outside contractors.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

VIA Rail Canada will receive all funding under this initiative, and in turn will issue all contracts or tenders as necessary.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please contact VIA Rail Canada at 1-800-681-2561 or Customer_Relations@viarail.ca. Information is also available through news releases on the VIA Rail website at www.viarail.ca/investmentprogram/en_invest_media.html.

Investing in Remote Rail Passenger Services

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government aims to improve the remote passenger rail services operated by two First Nations-owned railways. Budget 2009 provides a total of \$7.9 million for these improvements over a two-year period.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The federal government financially supports a number of remote and regional passenger rail services. The new funding targets the Keewatin Railway, which operates between The Pas and Pukatawagan (northern Manitoba); and Tshiuetin Rail, which operates between Sept-Îles and Schefferville (northern Quebec) as well as in Labrador.

The Keewatin Railway will use the funding to acquire track materials, a locomotive, and freight and track maintenance equipment; improve station facilities at Pukatawagan; and construct a locomotive maintenance shed.

Tshiuetin Rail will use the funding to purchase track maintenance and other equipment, accelerate rail line maintenance, and construct a turning track.

HOW IT WORKS

The two First Nations railways will develop the necessary specifications for each project and oversee the work, which will be performed either by their employees or outside contractors.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Keewatin Railway and Tshiuetin Rail will manage all contracting and purchasing activities.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please contact Transport Canada:

Email: Questions@tc.gc.ca Phone: 613-990-2309

Teletypewriter: 1-888-675-6863 Fax: 613-954-4731/613-998-8620

Mailing Address: Transport Canada 330 Sparks Street Ottawa ON K1A ON5

Investing in the Canada Business Network

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is providing funding of \$15 million annually over the next two years to the Canada Business Network (CBN) to deliver access to reliable, up-to-date and relevant government information and tools to businesses.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

CBN is a long-standing program that is the government's key access point for business-to-government information and assistance. The federal government works with provincial and territorial governments to link together the services they offer through different departments and at different levels. Services are offered online, by telephone and through in-person client service centres located in each province and territory.

HOW IT WORKS

The Canada Business website at www.canadabusiness.gc.ca provides information on a wide variety of government-to-business services, programs and regulations at the federal and provincial levels across Canada. The site also contains information to assist small and medium-sized enterprises seeking financing.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Canada Business is available to all Canadians and Canadian businesses.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

Contact Canada Business toll-free at 1-888-576-4444 or 1-800-457-8466 (teletypewriter), consult the website at www.canadabusiness.gc.ca, or visit one of the CBN service centres across the country.

Investing in the Canadian Space Industry

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government aims to support the development of advanced robotics and other space technologies by providing \$110 million over three years to the Canadian Space Agency.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Canadian Space Agency will focus on developing technologies and prototypes required for future space missions, building specialized expertise and leading-edge technology, and strengthening its relationships with the space industry and universities. Canada is a leader in the design, construction and operation of space robotic systems and is well known for success stories such as the Canadarm (the space shuttle robotic arm) and the Canadarm2 and Dextre (two robotic systems on the International Space Station).

This initiative will contribute to the development of terrestrial prototypes for space-robotic vehicles and to the further development of space robotics and other technologies.

HOW IT WORKS

The Canadian Space Agency plans to issue requests for proposals during the summer of 2009 for a number of industry-led projects to develop terrestrial prototypes of rovers and other robotic vehicles. Contracts for the rovers and vehicles would be issued before fiscal year-end for delivery in early 2012. These contracts would result in the development and demonstration of innovative technologies that will offer significant potential benefits for the Canadian Space Program and ensure the growth and development of the Canadian space sector.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Further information on who will be eligible to bid as prime contractors will be provided as it becomes available.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the Canadian Space Agency website at www.asc-csa.gc.ca.

Knowledge Infrastructure Program

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is providing \$2 billion over two years to support deferred maintenance, repair and expansion projects at post-secondary institutions across Canada. The funding, which is made available under the Knowledge Infrastructure Program, is part of the \$12 billion in infrastructure investments announced in Budget 2009.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

A significant portion of the existing campus infrastructure at Canada's post-secondary institutions is at, or near, the end of its projected life cycle, and often does not adequately meet today's needs. The program will provide a significant short-term economic stimulus in communities across Canada, as well as enhance research capacity, help attract new students and provide a better educational experience for tomorrow's highly skilled workers.

Federal funding will pay for up to half of project costs, levering an equivalent amount from other partners. Eligible projects must be materially completed by March 31, 2011.

HOW IT WORKS

Project proposals will be accepted from provinces and territories and directly from eligible post-secondary institutions. Projects will be selected for funding based on the following criteria:

- readiness—how quickly the proposed project can move forward; and
- merit—the ability of the project to generate economic benefits and support job creation
 in the near term, and the extent to which projects enhance (a) the quality of research and
 development at universities, or (b) the ability of colleges to deliver advanced knowledge and
 skills training.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Funding is available to all institutions that are authorized under provincial or territorial statutes to deliver post-secondary courses or programs that lead to recognized and transferable post-secondary credentials. These include public and not-for-profit private institutions, including Aboriginal-controlled and Government of Canada-controlled post-secondary institutions.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the Industry Canada website at www.ic.gc.ca/knowledge-infrastructure or call 1-866-978-2584.

Large-Scale Wood Demonstration Projects in Targeted Offshore Markets

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government aims, over the next two years, to support large-scale demonstrations of Canadian-style use of wood for construction in targeted offshore markets, and non-traditional uses of wood in domestic markets. This initiative will cost an estimated \$10 million.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The large-scale demonstration projects in offshore markets will build on the activities delivered under the Canada Wood Export Program (Canada Wood) and focus on the Canadian style of using wood for construction. In domestic markets, these demonstration projects will showcase the innovative use of wood in non-residential applications (such as schools, shopping centres and hospitals), to build on activities undertaken under the North American Wood First Initiative (Wood First). These demonstration projects will also emphasize the environmental benefits of wood use, which will help to develop and expand markets that are increasingly sensitive to environmental considerations.

HOW IT WORKS

Proposals will be submitted to Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) for review and evaluation. Projects will be selected in consultation with wood products industry associations and provincial governments. NRCan will build on the experience and the collaboration of Canada Wood and Wood First stakeholders to ensure that demonstration projects are implemented in an effective and efficient manner.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Eligible recipients include not-for-profit primary and secondary wood products associations, manufactured housing associations, provinces, provincial Crown corporations and not-for-profit organizations engaged in forest product research.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information on this program, please call Robert Jones, Natural Resources Canada. at 613-947-9041.

Le Manège Militaire de Québec

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government aims to invest up to \$2 million over the next two years in developing a plan for the future of the historic Manège militaire.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The federal government plans to undertake a consultation process over the spring of 2009 to seek the input of interested stakeholders regarding the future of the site.

HOW IT WORKS

Meetings with federal partners and stakeholders are planned for spring 2009. Plans are to complete online and public presentation consultations with the general public by early June. A consultant will be chosen to manage the consultation process and submit a final report, including a short list of the strongest concepts. The recommendations will be put forward for the government's consideration in early fall 2009.

WHO ARE THE STAKEHOLDERS

Federal partners, community leaders, heritage groups and the general public will have an opportunity to contribute to the plan.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the Public Works and Government Services Canada website at www.pwgsc-tpsgc.gc.ca.

Magazines and Community Newspapers

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will support continued access by Canadians to magazines and community newspapers over the next two years. This initiative will cost an estimated \$30 million.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

This initiative will be carried out in two phases. Funding in 2009-2010 will maintain the budget of the Publications Assistance Program, which provides postal subsidies to publishers of magazines and community newspapers. The \$15 million in new funding will replace the amount previously contributed by Canada Post, which ended on March 31, 2009, and will be in addition to the \$60 million the Department of Canadian Heritage is already providing annually to support periodicals through the Publications Assistance Program and the Canada Magazine Fund.

In 2010-2011, the Canada Magazine Fund and Publications Assistance Program will be replaced by a new program called the Canada Periodical Fund. This fund will modernize and simplify the government's approach to supporting periodicals, while building on the success of the previous programs. Funding to individual titles will be based on the reading choices of Canadians, which means the more Canadians purchase copies of a magazine or periodical, the greater the support it will receive. The new fund will give publishers more flexibility in how they use support to reach readers. Publishers may use funding for distribution expenses, content creation, business development, or to support online activities. There will also be support for business development projects for small and medium-sized enterprises and online-only magazines. The Canada Periodical Fund will have a budget of \$75 million in 2010-2011, \$15 million of which was committed in the Economic Action Plan.

HOW IT WORKS

In 2009-2010, the Publications Assistance Program and the Canada Magazine Fund will operate with no changes from previous years.

Through the Publications Assistance Program, Canadian publishers of magazines and non-daily newspapers can receive reductions on their mailing costs through Canada Post.

Through the Canada Magazine Fund, Canadian magazine publishers can receive financial support to create Canadian editorial content. A portion of the funding is also available for business development projects for small to medium-sized magazine enterprises or for projects that strengthen the infrastructure of the Canadian magazine industry as a whole.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Eligible recipients under the Publications Assistance Program include paid-circulation and request-circulation Canadian magazines and non-daily newspapers with at least 80 percent Canadian content.

Eligible recipients under the Canada Magazine Fund include paid-circulation Canadian magazines with at least 80 percent Canadian content. Industry associations may also apply for support for industry-wide projects.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information on the Publications Assistance Program, please visit the Canadian Heritage website at www.pch.gc.ca/pap.

For more information on the Canada Magazine Fund, please visit the Canadian Heritage website at www.pch.gc.ca/pgm/fcm-cmf.

Marquee Tourism Events Program

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government has announced \$100 million over two years for marquee festivals and events that draw a significant number of tourists.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Through targeted short-term support, the Marquee Tourism Events Program will help existing marquee tourism events enhance their offerings and deliver world-class programs and experiences. This support will contribute to the long-term growth and viability of Canada's visitor economy by attracting more tourists from within and outside Canada.

HOW IT WORKS

This program defines a marquee event as an annually recurring word-class event that is well established and has a long-standing tradition of programming and management excellence. A marquee event generates significant levels of tourism and aims to attract a significant amount of international media attention to Canada as a tourism destination.

Three program streams will be established, each with its own program parameters and funding levels:

- the Summer 2009 Marquee Tourism Events Stream
- Tier 1
- Tier 2

Program guidelines and application forms provide details for Tier 1 and 2 applicants to select the appropriate tier for application.

To address the need for timely action, the Summer 2009 Marquee Tourism Events Stream will quickly provide funding to a limited number of marquee events taking place during the summer of 2009. This is a one-time funding initiative. A call for applications for Tiers 1 and 2 was launched in April 2009. This will be followed, as warranted by demand for the program, by more calls later this year and possibly next. The Minister of State (Small Business and Tourism) will make final decisions on all the funding proposals.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Funding under the Marquee Tourism Events Program will be available to both for-profit and not-for-profit corporations that organize recurring marquee tourism events. Applicants must be incorporated under the laws of Canada or one of its provinces or territories, or be a council of an Indian band as defined in subsection 2(1)of the *Indian Act*.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information about the Marquee Tourism Events Program, please contact

Industry Canada
Small Business and Marketplace Services Sector
235 Queen Street
Ottawa ON K1A OH5
www.ic.gc.ca/tourism

Modernizing Federal Laboratories

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government aims to advance Canada's knowledge advantage by providing \$250 million over the next two years to address deferred maintenance at federal laboratories.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

There are about 200 federal laboratories and scientific facilities in Canada. Activities at these laboratories include research, testing and regulatory services in areas such as health, safety, security, the economy, transportation, environmental protection, heritage and culture.

The accelerated investment program will provide needed funds to address maintenance issues at federal laboratories across the country.

HOW IT WORKS

The government will undertake an internal process to select which federally owned laboratories will receive funding.

Funding will go toward investing in laboratories that contribute to core federal regulatory responsibilities, advance science and technology capacity, and/or contribute to enhance the health and safety of Canadians. Projects must be completed by March 31, 2011.

Once all proposals have been reviewed against established criteria, funding decisions will be made beginning April 2009.

WHO WILL BENEFIT

These projects will provide near-term stimulus to service providers in regions across Canada, who will carry out maintenance services ranging from replacement of roofs, ventilation systems and boilers, to updating electrical systems.

In addition, the federal science community will benefit from updated laboratories where health and safety issues have been addressed. As well, the quality of scientific activities at these laboratories will be enhanced because the facilities will be better suited to modern scientific practice. Ultimately, this will result in improved science and technology capacity for Canada and contribute to better health and safety outcomes for Canadians.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please consult Canada's Economic Action Plan, Chapter 3, under Immediate Action to Build Infrastructure at www.budget.gc.ca/2009/plan/bpc3d-eng.asp.

Moving Forward with Public-Private Partnerships

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government has announced that PPP Canada, the Crown corporation responsible for delivering the government's public-private partnership (P3) initiatives, will issue its first call for applications for funding from the \$1.257-billion P3 Fund in 2009-2010.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

In Budget 2007, the government announced key measures to promote the use of P3s in Canada, including the establishment of a new P3 office to spearhead federal P3 efforts, and a new \$1.257-billion fund dedicated to P3 projects.

PPP Canada was created to administer the P3 Fund and further develop Canada's P3 market. The P3 Fund will provide an additional dedicated source of funding for projects that are being developed as P3 arrangements, and will result in more infrastructure being built during the economic downturn.

HOW IT WORKS

Details of the program will be made available when PPP Canada issues guidelines for submitting P3 project proposals, which will take place prior to the initial call for applications to the P3 Fund.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Information on eligible projects will be made available when PPP Canada issues guidelines for submitting P3 project proposals.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information about the P3 program, please contact the office of PPP Canada at 613-947-9480.

National Arts Training Contribution Program

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is increasing its support for the National Arts Training Contribution Program (NATCP). The initiative will increase the base budget of the NATCP by \$20 million over the next two years. There will be an additional \$7 million in 2009-2010, and \$13 million in 2010-2011 and subsequent years. This will enable the NATCP to provide enhanced operating support for the organizations it funds, increasing their stability and competitiveness in the long term and strengthening their capacity to deliver expected results.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The NATCP contributes to the development of Canada's future cultural leaders by supporting the training of artists with high potential through institutions that offer training of the highest calibre. These schools provide professional training in disciplines such as ballet and contemporary dance, theatre, circus arts, Aboriginal and culturally diverse art forms, visual arts and musical performance (operatic and orchestral). The NATCP provides operating support to these organizations on an annual or multi-year basis to train Canadian artists for professional national and international artistic careers. Funded institutions include the National Theatre School of Canada, Canada's National Ballet School and the Banff Centre.

Applicants must demonstrate that the activity for which funding is requested is not funded as a provincial post-secondary education activity and does not result in the granting of a post-secondary qualification in that province, such as a diploma, certificate or degree.

HOW IT WORKS

Organizations submit an application by the annual deadline of June 30. Applications are reviewed for eligibility, then assessed by experts in the discipline where appropriate. Funding recommendations to the Minister of Canadian Heritage are made by a Departmental National Review Committee. The NATCP currently funds 37 arts training institutions that are national in scope. Funding ranges from \$25,000 to \$6 million per year, and is provided through contribution agreements for operational support.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Organizations must be incorporated in Canada as non-profit organizations. The training programs must be directed by recognized professionals and provide training for professional artistic careers. Organizations must have maintained a full-time operation in support of the professional training program for a minimum of three years, and must be accessible to Canadians through a national competitive admission process available in both of Canada's official languages. The last two eligibility criteria may be waived for organizations offering training in Aboriginal or culturally diverse art forms.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please contact the NATCP program officer at 819-997-3777 or pnsfa-natcp@pch.gc.ca. The toll-free number for Canadian Heritage is 1-866-811-0055. Information on the NATCP is also available on the Department's website at www.pch.gc.ca/pgm/pnfsa-natcp/index-eng.cfm.

National Historic Sites of Canada Cost-Sharing Program

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is providing \$8 million over two years for upgrades to national historic sites that receive support through Parks Canada's National Historic Sites of Canada Cost-Sharing Program.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The National Historic Sites of Canada Cost-Sharing Program is a contribution program that enables a site owner to receive up to 50 percent of eligible costs incurred in conserving and presenting a national historic site. A recipient can receive up to \$1 million, depending on the extent of conservation work and the specific terms and conditions of a signed contribution agreement.

HOW IT WORKS

Site owners must apply for financial assistance under the program. Applicants are expected to provide a description of the proposed conservation work along with ownership documents; applications are assessed according to established criteria.

The application deadline for fiscal year 2009-2010 was April 24, 2009, with subsequent twice-yearly application deadlines to be announced. It is anticipated that project approval will take place 30 to 60 days following each application deadline.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Eligible recipients are other levels of government, not-for-profit organizations and Aboriginal not-for-profit organizations.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please consult the Parks Canada website at www.pc.gc.ca. Information is also available from the Program Office for the National Historic Sites of Canada Cost-Sharing Program at:

Parks Canada
Planning and Programs Branch, National Historic Sites Directorate
25 Eddy Street (25-5-Q)
Gatineau QC K1A 0M5
Toll free: 1-866-377-1947

Fax: 819-953-4909

Email: partagedesfrais.costsharing@pc.gc.ca

National Recreational Trails

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government has committed \$25 million to the National Trails Coalition in 2009-2010. Funding will be used by the National Trails Coalition to build and renew multi-purpose trails for walking, running, cross-country skiing, biking, all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Trails allow Canadians to experience our country's unrivalled natural environment. This \$25-million investment will lead to economic activity in communities and create a lasting legacy of pristine trails that will benefit Canadians for years to come.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Funding will be provided to the National Trails Coalition. This coalition is a non-profit association whose member organizations provide stewardship of much of Canada's trail infrastructure. The government's contribution of \$25 million will be matched by the coalition and its partners.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please consult the National Trails Coalition website at www.ntc-canada.ca.

National Tourism Strategy

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the Minister of State (Small Business and Tourism) is leading the development of a National Tourism Strategy to guide future investments and to bring greater coherence to federal activities in support of tourism.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The tourism industry encompasses many services sectors and is an important source of employment in many regions of Canada. It generates over \$70 billion of revenues per year, employs over 650,000 workers and makes a significant contribution to every region of the country. While the Canadian tourism industry remains strong, it is facing many challenges due to the international economic downturn and competition from other destinations.

The federal government currently supports the tourism sector through a number of programs and services. The National Tourism Strategy will bring greater coherence to these activities and improve the effectiveness of the government's support in this area.

HOW IT WORKS

The National Tourism Strategy is currently in development. When a framework for federal activities and priorities under the strategy is finalized, discussions will be held with industry and other stakeholders.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

The National Tourism Strategy is not a funding program but represents an integrated federal approach and framework to guide departments and agencies in supporting tourism.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

The strategy should be available in spring 2009 on the Industry Canada website at www.ic.gc.ca.

New 47-foot Motor Lifeboats for the Coast Guard

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will procure five new 47-foot motor lifeboats for the Canadian Coast Guard. These lifeboats will help ensure an effective search and rescue capability across Canada. Funding for this initiative is part of the \$175 million in funding announced for the Canadian Coast Guard in Budget 2009.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The 47-foot motor lifeboats play a key role in the delivery of a national nearshore search and rescue program. These vessels operate from stations that are located strategically throughout Canadian Coast Guard regions.

The five new lifeboats will be based in Prince Rupert and Campbell River (British Columbia), Dartmouth (Nova Scotia), Quebec City (Quebec) and Burlington (Ontario). Three of these vessels will replace older obsolete vessels that are not self-righting. Self-righting vessels maximize crew safety and operational capability in dangerous conditions. The other two vessels will facilitate planned maintenance and training. The new vessels will reduce the gaps in search and rescue coverage while existing vessels are out of service for scheduled maintenance.

This initiative will provide an economic stimulus to the shipbuilding industry and to communities across Canada. It will also better position the Canadian Coast Guard to maintain a core marine capability in support of mandated programs and services in areas of exclusive federal jurisdiction.

The Canadian Coast Guard will expedite this funding initiative so that local economies can benefit as soon as possible from new jobs and stronger communities. The acquisition of the five lifeboats is expected to be completed by March 2011.

HOW IT WORKS

The procurement strategy will be governed by the Canadian Shipbuilding Policy and use competitive contracting processes. The project is scheduled to begin in spring 2009. Opportunities to bid will be posted on the MERX system, the government's online tendering service.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Eligible contractors include Canadian companies in the shipbuilding industry that have the requisite legal, technical and financial competence.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For information on bid opportunities available through MERX, please visit the MERX website at www.merx.com.

New Environmental Response Barges for the Coast Guard

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will acquire 30 new environmental response barges to help the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) deliver its Environmental Response Program. Funding for the initiative is part of the \$175 million in funding announced for the Canadian Coast Guard in Budget 2009.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Canadian Coast Guard Environmental Response Program ensures an adequate and effective response to spills entering the marine environment from ships and unknown sources. This responsibility extends over all Canadian waters including the Arctic.

Nationally, the CCG Environmental Response Program responds to an average of 1,200 spill reports annually. Where marine pollution occurs south of 60 degrees north latitude, the response includes private response organizations and the CCG. Where spills occur north of that latitude, the CCG is the principal response agency.

Small vessels help ensure an effective response capacity for the Canadian Coast Guard, playing a role in spill investigation, monitoring, equipment deployment and recovery. Of the 74 vessels assigned to the Environment Response Program, 50 percent are barges (work deck forward with wheelhouse and propulsion aft). The remainder are open boats of various styles.

The Canadian Coast Guard will expedite this initiative so that local economies can benefit as soon as possible from new jobs and stronger communities. Acquisition of the barges is expected to be completed by March 2011.

HOW IT WORKS

The procurement of the environmental response barges will be done using competitive contracting processes and is scheduled to begin in spring 2009. Opportunities to bid will be posted on the MERX system, the government's online tendering service.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Eligible suppliers include Canadian companies in the shipbuilding industry that have the requisite legal, technical and financial competence.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For information on bid opportunities available through MERX, please consult the MERX website at www.merx.com.

New Inshore Fisheries Science Vessels

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will procure three new inshore fisheries science vessels. These vessels will replace existing vessels in urgent need of replacement. Funding for this initiative is part of the \$175 million in funding announced for the Canadian Coast Guard in Budget 2009.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The new inshore fisheries science vessels will enable Fisheries and Oceans Canada researchers and scientists to conduct critical research in inshore waters. These inshore fisheries science vessels will be based in Mont-Joli (Quebec), and in Shippagan and St. Andrew's (New Brunswick). The length of the vessels will be between 18 and 24 metres.

The Canadian Coast Guard will expedite this funding initiative so local economies can benefit as soon as possible from new jobs and stronger communities. The acquisition of the three new vessels is expected to be completed by March 2011.

HOW IT WORKS

The procurement for the design and building of the inshore fisheries science vessels is being done using competitive contracting processes. Opportunities to bid are posted on the MERX system, the government's online tendering service.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Eligible contractors include Canadian companies in the shipbuilding industry that have the requisite legal, technical and financial competence.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For information on bid opportunities available through MERX, please visit the MERX website at www.merx.com.

New Small Boats for the Coast Guard

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will procure 60 new small boats for the Canadian Coast Guard. The new boats will enable the Canadian Coast Guard to continue providing vital on-water services to Canadians, such as servicing navigation aids, responding to search and rescue requests, supporting large ship operations, transporting technicians and support personnel, conducting hydrographic surveys, supporting science and fisheries research, and conducting conservation and protection patrols. Funding for the boats is part of the \$175 million in funding announced for the Canadian Coast Guard in Budget 2009.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

These new small boats will replace existing ones and will either be assigned to large vessels or will operate from a Canadian Coast Guard base, search and rescue station or other facility. The 60 small boats will consist of fast rescue craft, rigid-hull inflatable boats, and a variety of small work boats, barges and other craft. These boats are typically 5 to 11 metres in length and are designed for a variety of purposes from general utility to high-speed response.

The Canadian Coast Guard will expedite the procurement process, so that local economies can benefit as soon as possible from new jobs and stronger communities. Acquisition of the new small boats is expected to be completed by March 2011.

HOW IT WORKS

The procurement of the small boats will be done using competitive contracting processes and is scheduled to begin in spring 2009. Opportunities to bid are posted on the MERX system, the government's online tendering service.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Eligible contractors include Canadian companies in the shipbuilding industry that have the requisite legal, technical and financial competence.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For information on bid opportunities available through MERX, please visit the MERX website at www.merx.com.

North American Wood First Program

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will provide \$40 million over the next two years to help forestry companies market innovative products internationally. One of the initiatives is the North American Wood First Program (Wood First).

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Natural Resources Canada will support programs aimed at raising awareness among designers, architects, builders, code officials and various levels of government of the opportunities to use wood in non-residential applications (e.g., schools, shopping centres and hospitals) in North American markets. Programs may contain technical, educational and informational elements.

Approved activities are cost-shared on a 50/50 basis between Wood First and wood product industry associations with support from their respective provinces.

HOW IT WORKS

A public call for proposals is issued once a year. Eligible organizations have until late January to submit funding proposals for the following fiscal year (April through March). Proposals are evaluated against specific criteria by a panel of independent experts from the federal and provincial governments. Funding recommendations are then provided to an independent management committee for review and decision. Following final approval, applicants are advised of the results of the evaluation and selection process. Natural Resources Canada staff work with successful recipients to draw up contracts and initiate projects.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Eligible recipients include not-for-profit primary and secondary wood product associations and not-for-profit organizations engaged in forest product research.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please contact René Samson, Canada Wood Secretariat, Natural Resources Canada, at 613-947-9063, 613-947-7399 (fax) or woodmarkets@nrcan.gc.ca.

Northern Housing

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is providing \$200 million over the next two years in dedicated funding for the construction and renovation of social housing in the three territories.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Funding will be delivered by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) through amendments to existing agreements with territories under the Affordable Housing Initiative. Yukon and the Northwest Territories will each receive \$50 million, while the remaining \$100 million will be allocated to Nunavut, where the need for new social housing is greatest. There will be no maximum federal assistance levels per unit for these funds. Territorial governments will not be required to cost-share the northern housing funding.

This initiative is intended to increase the stock of affordable housing in the North and address the need for renovation and repairs of existing social housing. It will also address Canada's climate change goals by ensuring that funded projects are energy efficient.

HOW IT WORKS

The funding targets housing for households who are on, or qualify to be on, a social housing waiting list. Repair and retrofit are restricted to existing federally assisted social housing. Federal funding for new units or retrofits may cover up to 100 percent of the capital costs of the work. The federal government is not responsible for any operating or ongoing costs. Territories must require the housing to remain affordable for at least 10 years.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Territories will be responsible for program delivery and for approving applications for funding from municipalities, not-for-profit organizations or private sector developers. Only existing federally assisted social housing is eligible for repair and retrofit funding.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

Once agreements are in place, territories will provide information to potential project sponsors and eligible households. In addition, information will be available on CMHC's website at www.cmhc.ca at the same time.

Policing Infrastructure in First Nations Communities

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will provide \$15 million to address the remediation of critical policing infrastructure in some of Canada's First Nations communities. The timely and effective provision of critical community services, such as policing, is impacted by the physical conditions under which these services are provided. By strengthening policing infrastructure in First Nations communities, health, safety and operational issues will be addressed.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Details of this program are being developed. Please visit Canada's Economic Action Plan website at actionplan.gc.ca for up-to-date information.

Recreational Infrastructure Canada

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government has committed \$500 million over two years to build and renew community recreation facilities across Canada. There are thousands of community recreational facilities across Canada, including arenas, tennis and basketball courts, and swimming pools. Many of these facilities were built in 1967 and are now in need of upgrading.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Recreational Infrastructure Canada is designed to provide local economic stimulus, while improving the quality of community recreational facilities and promoting national spirit.

The \$500 million provided will be used to fund projects geared to rehabilitation and upgrades of existing facilities, or to construction of new facilities that will either add to or replace existing recreational infrastructure assets and/or capacity. In addition to tennis, basketball, volleyball or other sport-specific courts, eligible project categories include gymnasiums, sport fields, parks, fitness trails, bike paths and other multi-purpose facilities that have physical recreation as the primary rationale.

Projects will be selected on the basis of merit and readiness. Projects receiving funding under the Recreational Infrastructure Canada program must complete construction by March 31, 2011.

Under the program, the federal government will typically fund up to 33 percent of eligible costs but may, by exception, fund up to 50 percent. The remaining funding will need to be sourced from other project stakeholders such as provincial or municipal governments, community organizations and the private sector. The maximum federal contribution to any project receiving funding under the program will be limited to \$1 million.

HOW IT WORKS

Proponents who have a construction-ready project meeting the criteria above are invited to submit a brief description of their project to the department or agency that is responsible for delivering the program in their region:

- Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency for all Atlantic provinces
- Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec
- Industry Canada for Ontario
- Western Economic Diversification for all western provinces
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada for all territories.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Facilities must be owned by a local or regional government, a provincial or territorial entity. First Nations, counties, community organizations or not-for-profit private sector entities.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the website of the implementing department or agency for your region:

- Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency www.acoa-apeca.gc.ca
- Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec www.dec-ced.gc.ca
- Industry Canada (for Ontario) www.ic.gc.ca
- Western Economic Diversification www.wd.gc.ca
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (for all territories) www.ainc-inac.gc.ca

Refitting Large Coast Guard Vessels

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will undertake major repair work on the Canadian Coast Guard's 35 large vessels over and above what has already been planned for and budgeted. Funding for the refits is part of the \$175 million in funding for the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) announced in Budget 2009.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Canadian Coast Guard ships operate on Canada's three oceans and on the Great Lakes. CCG fleet services include aids to navigation, icebreaking, flood control, search and rescue, maritime security, environmental response, and maritime communications and traffic services. The fleet also supports Fisheries and Oceans Canada's science activities and its work in managing and protecting fisheries resources, as well as the non-military activities of other government departments and agencies. When asked to, the CCG fleet also responds to federal maritime priorities and natural or human-made emergencies, such as the Swiss Air disaster.

The repair work will consist of general repairs, refits, maintenance and updates to 35 of the CCG's largest vessels. Of the 35 vessels scheduled to undergo major repair work, seven are stationed in the Coast Guard's Pacific region, five in the Central and Arctic region, seven in the Quebec region, seven in the Maritimes region, and nine in Newfoundland and Labrador. The work will improve the ability of the vessels to deliver CCG services and programs as well as meet the on-water needs of other government departments.

The Canadian Coast Guard will expedite the repair work so that local economies can benefit as soon as possible from new jobs and stronger communities. The refits are expected to be completed by March 2011.

HOW IT WORKS

The procurement of equipment and maintenance services for the vessel refits is being done using a competitive contracting process. Opportunities to bid are posted on the MERX system, the government's online tendering service.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Eligible contractors include Canadian companies in the shipbuilding industry that have the requisite legal, technical and financial competence.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For information on bid opportunities available through MERX, please visit the MERX website at www.merx.com.

Regional Economic Development for the North

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will provide \$50 million over five years to establish a new northern development agency for the North. This agency will aim to:

- Broaden the economic base of each northern territory;
- Strengthen northerners' ability to take advantage of economic opportunities; and
- Increase coordination among partners and programs serving northern economic development.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Details of this program are being developed. Please visit Canada's Economic Action Plan website at actionplan.gc.ca for up-to-date information.

Renovation and Retrofit of Social Housing

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is providing a one-time investment of \$1 billion over the next two years to address the current backlog in renovation and energy retrofits of the existing social housing portfolio.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Of the federal investment, \$850 million will be delivered and cost-shared on a 50/50 basis by provinces and territories through amendments to existing agreements under the Affordable Housing Initiative. Initial funding allocations will be based on each province's and territory's share of existing units. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) will work with provinces and territories on appropriate energy-efficiency improvement standards for work undertaken. CMHC will deliver the remaining \$150 million for the social housing portfolio it administers, with no cost-sharing required.

Eligible renovation activities include repairs, modernization, regeneration and redevelopment. energy-efficiency upgrades or conversions, and housing-related modifications to provide support for persons with disabilities. It does not include funding for ongoing routine maintenance. This investment will improve the quality of life for residents of existing social housing by keeping their homes safe and affordable, and by ensuring these units will continue to be available to meet the needs of future generations.

HOW IT WORKS

The emphasis is on projects that are ready to go.

Maximum contributions for the federal share vary by geographic zone and will generally be \$14,000 per unit for provincial or territorial delivery.

The CMHC funding of \$150 million will be allocated using a national call for applications. CMHC will ensure a fair and equitable distribution of funds. Maximum contributions will vary by geographic zone and will generally be \$28,000.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Social housing organizations (e.g. non-profits and housing co-ops) that own and operate off-reserve, and federally assisted social housing projects under a current National Housing Act operating agreement are the ultimate recipients of funding through this initiative.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

Once agreements are in place, provinces and territories will provide information to eligible projects. CMHC funded and administered social housing projects can obtain more information or apply online by visiting CMHC's website at www.cmhc.ca.

Small Craft Harbours Program

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government aims, over the next two years, to accelerate repair and maintenance and to undertake dredging at core commercial fishing harbours across Canada, including in the Northwest Territories. The budget provided for this initiative is \$200 million.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Small Craft Harbours (SCH) is a nationwide program of Fisheries and Oceans Canada that is responsible for a system of approximately 750 core fishing harbours. These harbours are operated by independently incorporated harbour authorities, which lease the properties from SCH and provide site management services tailored to local needs. The mandate of SCH is to keep harbours that are critical to the fishing industry open and in good repair.

HOW IT WORKS

The program focuses on core fishing harbours owned by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and used by the commercial fishing industry. Projects will include building and repairing wharves, piers, launching ramps, floating docks and breakwaters; improving and repairing electrical and water systems; and dredging harbour channels and basins.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

SCH projects require specialized knowledge and expertise for successful delivery. To be eligible, consulting firms must have engineering (mainly civil, structural and coastal but also mechanical and electrical), project management and heavy construction expertise and experience in a marine environment. Construction projects will require contractors to have heavy equipment, dredges and operators with marine construction experience. This work will also call for surveyors, hydrographers, environmental experts, and health and safety professionals.

Contracts will be let by either Public Works and Government Services Canada or Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information about the Small Craft Harbours program, please consult the Fisheries and Oceans website at www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/sch-ppb/home-accueil-eng.htm.

For information on bid opportunities available through MERX, please visit the MERX website at www.merx.com.

Southern Ontario Development Agency

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will provide more than \$1 billion over five years for a new Southern Ontario development agency. Its programs will support economic and community development, innovation and economic diversification, with contributions to communities, businesses and non-profit organizations. It will help workers, communities and businesses in Southern Ontario position themselves to take advantage of opportunities, as economic growth recovers in Canada and around the world. Canada's Economic Action Plan also provides \$20 million over two years for the Eastern Ontario Development program to support business and community development in rural areas of Eastern Ontario. This program will be administered by the Southern Ontario development agency.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Details of this program are being developed. Please visit Canada's Economic Action Plan website at actionplan.gc.ca for up-to-date information.

Special Olympics

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will increase funding for Special Olympics Canada to \$1.5 million for 2009-2010.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Through Sport Canada, support for Special Olympics Canada will be increased to enable the organization to support increased sport participation by Canadians with an intellectual disability. Increased support will be provided for priority initiatives, such as Special Olympics Canada's 2010 National Summer Games, development and strengthening of Special Olympics programs in provinces and territories, and the potential addition of programming for new sports. Sport Canada is working with Special Olympics Canada to determine specific priority areas for allocation of increased funding.

HOW IT WORKS

This represents an increase in funding to Special Olympics Canada, an organization that already receives annual contribution funding from Sport Canada. Special Olympics Canada has submitted its application for the full amount of funding for 2009-2010 and this is being assessed by Sport Canada officials as part of the normal annual contribution review process.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Special Olympics Canada is the sole eligible recipient of funding from this initiative. The organization currently provides opportunities for 31,000 athletes with an intellectual disability to train, compete and reach their full athletic and social potential.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the Sport Canada website at www.pch.gc.ca/pgm/sc/index-eng.cfm.

Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is providing \$90 million over five years to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) to renew the Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development (SINED) program.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

SINED is a suite of contribution programs. Its main component is the Targeted Investment Program, which makes strategic investments based on each territory's unique needs and opportunities. These plans are developed in consultation with territorial stakeholders. SINED also includes three much smaller and complementary programs: the Innovation and Knowledge Fund, the Partnership and Advisory Forums, and the Pan-Territorial Fund. The key objective of this program is to build the foundation for long-term, self-sustaining economic development in the territories.

HOW IT WORKS

SINED project applications are solicited through open and targeted calls for proposals. Applications for funding under SINED will be assessed beginning April 1, 2009.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Organizations or associations, including social enterprises, whose mandate includes work that advances northern economic development are eligible to apply. Also eligible are individuals, small and medium-sized enterprises, other levels of government and other non-federal entities, public or private, that have an interest in economic development in the North.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please consult the INAC website at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca or contact one of INAC's offices in the territories.

Yukon

1-800-661-0451 (toll-free) ytinfo@ainc-inac.gc.ca 300 Main Street, Room 415 C, Whitehorse YT Y1A 2B5

Northwest Territories

1-866-669-2620 (toll-free) ecdevnwt@ainc-inac.gc.ca P.O. Box 1500, 4920-52nd Street, Yellowknife NT X1A 2R3

Nunavut

867-975-4537 ecdevnunavut@inac.gc.ca Inuksugait Plaza, Box 2200, Iqaluit NU XOA OHO

Strengthening Aviation Security

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will invest in new and enhanced aviation security measures to strengthen the security of Canadians; ensure that Canada's security measures remain closely aligned with those of its key international partners; and ensure that Canadian airports and air carriers remain competitive internationally. This initiative will cost an estimated \$282 million.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Budget 2009 funding will support the development of aviation security plans by industry and improve the operations of the Canadian Air Transportation Security Authority (CATSA). The measures include the acquisition of advanced, internationally compatible screening equipment and other technology, as well as training for airport screening workers, to increase levels of security and efficiency.

Canada needs to keep pace with its international partners, which have all made significant investments in aviation security in recent years. As well, several authorities (including the Office of the Auditor General and the Advisory Panel on the CATSA Act Review) have recommended security improvements in key areas of Canada's aviation system.

With these new and enhanced aviation security measures, the government is acting to strengthen the security of Canadians in priority areas of the aviation system, while ensuring that Canadian air carriers and airports remain competitive internationally.

HOW IT WORKS

Transport Canada and CATSA will continue to work closely with airports, air carriers, and other key stakeholders on implementing new and enhanced aviation security measures and technology. The goal is to ensure that the Canadian civil aviation system remains one of the most secure and efficient in the world.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

CATSA will receive all funding under this initiative, and in turn will issue all contracts or tenders as necessary.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the Transport Canada website at www.tc.gc.ca/aviationsecurity/menu.htm.

Strengthening the Competitiveness of Canada's Meat Packing Sector

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will invest \$50 million over the next three years to strengthen slaughterhouse capacity in various regions of the country, to support the livestock sector. The program will make federal contributions available to match private sector investments in sound business plans aimed at reducing costs, increasing revenues and improving operations of meat slaughter and processing operations in Canada, with a view to ensuring that Canadian livestock producers have viable and sustainable slaughter options available to them.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Details of this program are being developed. Please visit Canada's Economic Action Plan website at www.actionplan.gc.ca for up-to-date information.

Supporting the Development of International Cruises on the Saint Lawrence and Saguenay Rivers

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is providing a tourism investment of \$12 million annually in 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 to support the promotion of international cruises on the Saint Lawrence and Saguenay rivers.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The government has announced a \$60 million investment over five years to develop cruise ship ports of call in Quebec.

This funding will be used to support projects for the construction or improvement of port facilities and equipment, as well as work and services related to international ports of call. Projects to revitalize, develop or improve tourist attractions near ports of call and the services offered in these locations are also eligible, insofar as they are of interest to cruise passengers. Lastly, promotion and marketing and other related activities could also receive funding.

The Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec (CED) plans to give funding priority to ports of call with the highest potential for development: Saguenay, Baie-Comeau, Havre-Saint-Pierre, Gaspé (Percé-Gaspé and Chandler axis), Sept-Îles and Cap-aux-Meules. These ports were selected following a series of studies.

HOW IT WORKS

The initiative will be implemented under CED's Community Diversification Program, one of the purposes of which is to increase communities' ability to attract and retain tourists from outside Quebec. Project proposals should be forwarded to a CED business office and must comply with the requirements of the Community Diversification Program.

WHAT IS ELIGIBLE

Three types of projects are eligible:

- the development of port facilities with the capacity to accommodate cruise ships;
- the revitalization, development or improvement of tourist attractions likely to be of interest to cruise passengers; and
- the promotion and marketing of ports of call in international markets, including other activities such as business and development plans, studies, etc.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the CED website at www.dec-ced.gc.ca/eng/programs/applying/cruise.html.

Targeted Assistance for the Automotive Sector

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan—and as announced on December 20, 2008, by Prime Minister Harper and Premier McGuinty—the federal government is working with the Ontario government to make available up to \$4 billion in short-term repayable loans to General Motors of Canada Limited and Chrysler Canada Inc. Of this amount, \$2.7 billion will come from the Government of Canada. Looking to the long term, the federal industry minister will also be developing a strategy over the coming months to position Canada's automotive sector for sustainable, long-term success.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The automotive industry across North America is facing major adjustment challenges caused by the overall slowing of the economy and changes in market demand for automobiles.

The government understands the seriousness of the situation and is taking action, working with the Government of Ontario and all stakeholders, to support restructuring plans that will ensure a viable automotive sector in Canada.

HOW IT WORKS

At the government's request, the Canadian subsidiaries of General Motors and Chrysler submitted restructuring plans laying out their strategies to achieve long-term viability and to show how government assistance will be used. On March 30, 2009, the governments of Canada and Ontario announced that the plans submitted by General Motors of Canada Limited and Chrysler Canada Inc. were not sufficient for the governments to certify their restructuring plans.

In conjunction with the U.S. government, the governments of Canada and Ontario are requesting that both companies undertake additional work to ensure their future competitiveness and that all stakeholders contribute appropriately to improving the overall cost structures in their plans.

This additional work will be supported in Canada by the interim loans announced on December 20, 2008. Canada is contributing 20 percent of the existing U.S. interim financing, in keeping with its share of Canada–U.S. production.

Interim loans are being advanced as necessary in the amounts of \$3 billion for General Motors of Canada and \$1 billion for Chrysler Canada to assist the companies while they work on their restructuring plans. The loan agreement with Chrysler Canada was completed on March 30, 2009. and \$250 million was advanced. These loans are not to pay off prior tax obligations or underfunded pension liabilities. In the loan agreement, the Government of Canada put limits on executive compensation to senior Canadian employees from 2008 through the term of the loan. The borrowers must provide regular reports on cash and liquidity positions, production and revenues.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Only General Motors of Canada and Chrysler Canada, which requested assistance, are eligible to receive these interim loans. Other companies, such as Ford Motor Company of Canada Ltd., Toyota Canada Inc. and Honda Canada Inc., have expressed support for measures to improve access to financing for consumers and businesses. The Canadian Secured Credit Facility announced in Canada's Economic Action Plan has been put in place to fill this need.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please consult the Industry Canada website at www.ic.gc.ca.

Transformative Technologies Demonstration Projects in the Forest Sector

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government aims to accelerate innovation in Canada's forest sector with new funding to develop pilot-scale demonstration projects of new products for use in commercial applications. This represents an investment of \$40 million in fiscal year 2010-2011.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Transformative Technologies Pilot-Scale Demonstration program will be administered by FPInnovations, a not-for-profit forest research institute. The research agenda will be delivered in collaboration with provinces, universities and forest product manufacturers. Demonstration projects will feature novel forest products and processes developed using emerging and breakthrough technologies related to forest biomass harvesting and conversion, nanotechnology and next-generation forest products.

HOW IT WORKS

Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) will provide funding under the Transformative Technologies Pilot-Scale Demonstration Program to FPInnovations to implement and demonstrate, at pilot scale, high-potential research results and successes. NRCan will consult with provinces and territories regarding partnerships and with industry on technical suitability and willingness to host a pilot plant.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Program funds will be provided to FPInnovations under a grants-and-contribution agreement to demonstrate, at pilot-scale, high-potential, late-stage forest-level and product research as set out in the FPInnovations Annual Research Work Plan. The research will be conducted in collaboration with universities, provinces and industry.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please contact Robert Jones, Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada, at 613-947-9041, or rjones@nrcan.gc.ca, or consult the FPInnovations website at www.fpinnovations.ca under the research program of each division: Feric, Forintek and Paprican.

Transformative Technologies Research in the Forest Sector

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government aims to accelerate innovation in Canada's forest sector over the next two years with new funding to extend and expand the Transformative Technologies Program delivered by FPInnovations, a not-for-profit forest research institute. This represents an investment of \$80 million over the next two fiscal years.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Transformative Technologies Program is administered by FPInnovations, and the research agenda is delivered in collaboration with provinces, universities and forest product manufacturers. Research focuses on the development and adaptation of emerging and breakthrough technologies such as those related to forest biomass harvesting and conversion, nanotechnology and next-generation forest products.

HOW IT WORKS

Natural Resources Canada provides funding under the Transformative Technologies Program to FPInnovations to deliver an Annual Research Work Plan of pre-competitive, non-proprietary research and development. Input to the research agenda is provided by Canada's forest industry, while strategic direction is provided by the FPInnovations board of directors, composed of representatives from industry and government. The FPInnovations Annual Research Work Plan relates directly to the work plan guiding the research effort of the Canadian Wood Fibre Centre, which is developing science and technology that maximizes the potential of Canada's forest resources.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Transformative Technologies Program funds will be provided to FPInnovations under a contribution agreement to conduct forest-level and product research as set out in its Annual Research Work Plan. The research will be conducted in collaboration with universities, provinces and industry.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please contact Robert Jones, Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada, at 613-947-9041 or rjones@nrcan.gc.ca, or consult the FPInnovations website at www.fpinnovations.ca under the research program of each division: Feric, Forintek and Paprican.

Twinning the Trans-Canada Highway Through Banff National Park

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government aims, over the next five years, to complete upgrading the Trans-Canada Highway from two to four lanes in Banff National Park. This initiative will cost an estimated \$130 million.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

This program will include highway and bridge construction as well as the installation of facilities to protect wildlife from the village of Lake Louise to the British Columbia border.

Direct economic benefits will come from employment in the construction sector and from the acquisition of building materials and the rental of construction equipment. Spin-off economic activity is expected through visitor spending at Parks Canada and commercial facilities in and adjacent to the park.

HOW IT WORKS

The work will be carried out on behalf of Parks Canada by engineering design consultants and construction contractors.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

All work will be publicly tendered and awarded through contracts. Opportunities to submit bids for contracts will be posted on the MERX system, the government's online tendering service.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For information on bid opportunities available through MERX, please visit the MERX website at www.merx.com.

Value to Wood Program

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will provide \$40 million over the next two years to help forestry companies market innovative products internationally. One such initiative is the Value to Wood program.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Value to Wood program provides funding for research related to the development of new and modified value-added wood products, such as floors, kitchen cabinets and finger-joined lumber. As well, it provides technical assistance to small and medium-sized companies wanting to adopt new technologies. The research is conducted by five leading wood research organizations across Canada, which include universities and the world's largest forest research organization, FPInnovations. The technical assistance to value-added wood companies is provided by a network of industry advisers located across the country. These advisers have specialized technical expertise and can also provide market assistance.

HOW IT WORKS

Research ideas are submitted for review to the Value to Wood Research Advisory Committee, which is composed of representatives from secondary manufacturers from all regions across Canada. The committee evaluates the research ideas based on their potential impact on the Canadian wood product industry, and recommends funding for those most likely to result in improved competitiveness for the industry. Companies seeking technical and market assistance can contact an appropriate specialist in their region directly.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

All Canadian secondary wood manufacturers may suggest research topics for consideration by the Value to Wood Research Advisory Committee. Canadian secondary manufacturers are also eligible to receive direct technical and market assistance.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please contact Suzanne Nash, Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada, at 613-996-6876 or snash@nrcan.gc.ca, or visit the Value to Wood website at www.valuetowood.ca.

Helping Canadians that are Hardest Hit by the Recession



Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is providing \$100 million in funding for the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP) program. This additional funding is expected to support the creation of up to 6,000 jobs for Aboriginal Canadians.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The ASEP program addresses Aboriginal employment by providing Aboriginal people with the skills and training needed to participate in economic opportunities such as northern mining, fisheries, tourism, construction and infrastructure-related initiatives.

HOW IT WORKS

ASEP is a nationally managed, project-based program promoting increased participation of Aboriginal people in major developments through a partnership-based approach. ASEP supports multi-year training strategies developed and managed by partnerships and leading to long-term skilled jobs. Partnerships must involve at a minimum an employer and the Aboriginal organization. Other partners may include the provincial or territorial government, local and regional educational institutions, and others.

ASEP funding is distributed through a request for proposals process. To apply, partners must develop a proposal for assessment by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada that describes the project and demonstrates the expected outcomes for generating long-term sustainable employment for Aboriginal people.

As part of their proposal, applicants must develop a training-to-employment plan, which could include a range of activities, including basic skills training, literacy skills training, and academic upgrading, job-specific training and apprenticeships, retention counselling and other supports while on the job. The major employer must guarantee a minimum of 50 long-term jobs for Aboriginal people by completion of the project.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Those looking to create an ASEP project need to form a partnership which minimally includes a lead employer and an Aboriginal organization.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

Information is available on the Human Resources and Skills Development Canada website at www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/home.shtml. A request for proposals will be posted in spring 2009.

Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is investing \$75 million of new funding over two years to establish the Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund (ASTSIF). The fund will support short-term, focused initiatives designed to help Aboriginal people get the specific skills they require to benefit from economic opportunities, including those generated by the stimulus package. The fund will be an important step toward implementing the partnership-and results-based successor to the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy (AHRDS), to be put in place in April 2010.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The ASTSIF will strengthen partnerships between Aboriginal employment service organizations and employers through training-to-employment programs related to concrete job opportunities. It will also support greater investments in training for individuals facing barriers to employment such as low literacy and essential skills.

HOW IT WORKS

The ASTSIF will focus on three main objectives: first, entering into a limited number of training-to-employment projects leading to concrete, guaranteed job opportunities by establishing partnerships with small and medium-size employers; second, supporting projects to assist Aboriginal people with barriers to employment, including literacy and essential skills challenges; and finally, the ASTSIF will support pilot projects to test innovative approaches to Aboriginal labour market programming as well as projects that are national in scope.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

The AHRDS service delivery network—the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement holders (AHRDAs)—will be the primary recipient of funding, which will be granted through an application process. AHRDAs will also be expected to enter into projects that are based on strong partnerships with employers, other Aboriginal organizations, educational institutions or other levels of government and are able to deliver measureable results within the two-year timeframe. Other Aboriginal organizations may be able to participate in projects that are national in scope.

Aboriginal Canadians can learn more about skills and training opportunities by contacting an AHRDA representative in their area.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

Information will be available on the Human Resources and Skills Development Canada website at www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/home.shtml.

Apprenticeship Completion Grant

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

As part of Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government made a commitment to encourage skilled trades and apprenticeships by investing \$40 million per year in a new Apprenticeship Completion Grant (ACG), which complements the existing Apprenticeship Incentive Grant (AIG). It is estimated that approximately 20,000 apprentices who complete their apprenticeship program and become certified in a designated Red Seal trade will be eligible for the ACG each year.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Apprenticeship Completion Grant is a \$2,000 taxable cash grant designed to encourage apprentices registered in a designated Red Seal trade to complete their apprenticeship program and receive journeyperson certification. Apprentices will be able to apply for the ACG in July 2009, with eligibility made retroactive to January 1, 2009.

HOW IT WORKS

Upon successful completion of an apprenticeship program and receipt of their journeyperson certification in a designated Red Seal trade, apprentices can apply to receive the \$2,000 ACG.

A Red Seal trade is a trade that is recognized under the Interprovincial Standards Red Seal Program and designated as such within a province or territory. The Red Seal Program represents a national standard of training excellence in the trades and provides recognition of tradespersons' qualifications.

Under the existing AIG, apprentices are already eligible for a \$1,000 taxable cash grant when they complete the first and/or second level of their apprenticeship program in a designated Red Seal trade, to a maximum of \$2,000.

As a combined result of the new ACG and the existing AIG, apprentices who complete their apprenticeship program and become certified in a designated Red Seal trade could be eligible to receive a total of \$4,000.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Apprentices registered in a Red Seal trade that is designated as such in the province or territory in which they receive journeyperson certification are eligible to apply. Apprentices must successfully complete their apprenticeship training in a Red Seal designated trade and become certified journeypersons on or after January 1, 2009, to be eligible for the grant.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

Detailed information on the ACG, along with the application form, will be available on the Service Canada website at www.servicecanada.gc.ca by July 2009.

Better Outcomes for Long-Tenured Workers

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will implement two new measures to help long-tenured workers update and acquire new skills. These measures will cost an estimated \$500 million over two years and will be implemented in partnership with provinces and territories. One measure will extend Employment Insurance (EI) regular income benefits to eligible workers who participate in longer-term training. Up to 40,000 individuals are expected to benefit from this measure. The other will allow earlier access to EI regular income benefits for eligible workers investing in their own training using all or part of their severance package.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The El program provides temporary income support to individuals who have contributed to the program and who have either lost their job through no fault of their own or who have to take a temporary absence from work due to illness, childbirth or parenting, or to provide care or support for a family member who is gravely ill with a significant risk of death. The El program also provides employment programming and services to Canadians through Employment Benefits and Support Measures or similar programming through Labour Market Development Agreements with provinces and territories under Part II of the Employment Insurance Act.

HOW IT WORKS

Both measures target unemployed individuals who have previously been employed for a significant length of time and have made only limited use of EI.

The Extended Employment Insurance and Training Incentive (EEITI) will provide up to 104 weeks of EI Part I regular benefits (including the two-week waiting period), including up to 12 weeks of benefits following completion of job search training, to eligible claimants undertaking longer-term training.

The Severance Investment for Training Initiative (SITI) will allow earlier access to EI Part I regular benefits for eligible claimants who invest in their own training using all or part of their severance package. SITI participants who meet the eligibility requirements of the EEITI will be able to participate in both measures.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Details regarding eligibility are being developed in consultation with provinces and territories, with the goal of providing these measures by late May 2009.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

More information on these measures will be available from the Government of Canada's toll-free information line at 1 800 0-Canada (1-800-622-6232; teletypewriter: 1-800-926-9105), from the Service Canada website at www.servicecanada.gc.ca or from local Service Canada Centres.

Canada Graduate Scholarships Program

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government aims to further develop a highly skilled workforce and ensure that this talent is well applied by providing for a temporary expansion of the Canada Graduate Scholarships program. As a result of this investment, an additional 2,500 scholarships will be awarded in the next two years. This initiative will cost \$87.5 million over three years beginning in 2009-2010.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Canada Graduate Scholarships program was announced in Budget 2003 to increase the level of federal support for training highly qualified personnel in Canadian universities. This permanent, ongoing program supports 5,000 scholarships annually for Canada's top graduate students pursuing research-based degrees at the master's and doctoral levels across all disciplines. Scholarships at the master's level are valued at \$17,500 for one year. Scholarships at the doctoral level are valued at \$35,000 annually for up to three years.

Scholarships are awarded annually by the three federal granting councils: the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC); the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC); and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

HOW IT WORKS

The Canada Graduate Scholarships program is managed separately by SSHRC, NSERC and CIHR. In the case of SSHRC and NSERC, students can apply for a Canada Graduate Scholarship through their university in the fall of each year. In the case of CIHR, students can apply directly to CIHR in the fall of each year.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

To be eligible for a Canada Graduate Scholarship, students must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada. Scholarships are awarded to top graduate students pursuing research-based degrees through a competitive, merit-based selection process.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information about the Canada Graduate Scholarships program and how to apply, please consult the SSHRC, NSERC and CIHR websites at www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca, www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca and www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca.

Canada Summer Jobs

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is increasing funding for Canada Summer Jobs by \$10 million per year in 2009 and 2010. The new funding will help create additional summer jobs for students during the current economic downturn, particularly in the not-for-profit sector.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Canada Summer Jobs is an initiative of the Summer Work Experience program. It provides funding for not-for-profit organizations, public sector employers and small businesses with 50 or fewer employees to create high-quality summer job opportunities for students between the ages of 15 and 30.

HOW IT WORKS

Not-for-profit employers may receive up to 100 percent of the provincial or territorial minimum hourly wage and mandatory employment-related costs of hiring a student. Public sector employers and small private sector employers with 50 or fewer employees may receive up to 50 percent of the provincial or territorial minimum hourly wage.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Canadian not-for-profit organizations, public sector employers and small businesses with 50 or fewer employees can apply for funding through Canada Summer Jobs. The 2009 application period was from February 2 to 27, 2009. Application and assessment deadlines were designed to have students at work beginning in May 2009.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please consult the Service Canada, Canada Summer Jobs website at www.servicecanada.gc.ca/csj2009, call the Youth Info Line toll-free at 1-800-935-5555, or visit a Service Canada Centre.

Community Adjustment Fund

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government aims to help mitigate the short-term impacts of restructuring in communities through the Community Adjustment Fund. Budget 2009 provides \$1 billion over two years for the fund.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Community Adjustment Fund will support activities such as community transition plans that foster economic development, science and technology initiatives, and other measures that promote economic diversification.

The fund will be delivered nationally through the regional development agencies, Industry Canada and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, and, once they are in place, the newly created Southern Ontario Development Agency and the Northern Development Agency. Funding will flow through existing programs and mechanisms and/or through bilateral agreements with individual provinces and territories.

HOW IT WORKS

Delivering departments and agencies will solicit and evaluate projects based on selection criteria, which will include the ability of a project to start quickly and be completed within a two-year timeframe. Priority will also be given to projects that generate immediate employment and leverage funds from provinces, territories and other funding partners, among other criteria.

Projects will be funded in and around eligible communities. Eligible communities will be defined by specific criteria using indicators such as job losses and unemployment rate. Only communities with a population of less than 250,000 will be eligible.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Eligible recipients of funding include not-for-profit organizations, small and medium-sized enterprises and municipalities.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the website of the implementing department or agency for your region:

- Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency www.acoa-apeca.gc.ca
- Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec www.dec-ced.gc.ca
- Industry Canada (for Ontario) www.ic.gc.ca
- Western Economic Diversification www.wd.gc.ca
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (for all territories) www.ainc-inac.gc.ca

Employment Insurance and Extended El Benefits

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government has provided nationally the advantages of an extra five weeks of Employment Insurance (EI) benefits previously offered as part of a pilot project in specific regions with high unemployment. In addition, the maximum duration of benefits available under the EI program in areas of high unemployment has been increased from 45 to 50 weeks. The estimated cost of this measure is \$1.15 billion.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The El program provides temporary income support to those who have contributed to the program while they look for work or take a temporary leave from work due to illness, childbirth or parenting, or to provide care or support for a family member who is gravely ill with a significant risk of death. The five weeks of extended El benefits applies to regular El benefits, which can be paid to individuals who lose jobs through no fault of their own.

HOW IT WORKS

This measure provides new El claimants, as well as existing claimants who were not part of the Extended El Benefit pilot project, with five additional weeks of benefits, on top of what they would have had otherwise, to a maximum of 50 weeks. The duration of benefits is calculated based on the unemployment rate for the region in which a claimant lives.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

These new benefits are available to new El claimants, and existing recipients whose claim was open on March 1, 2009.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please call Service Canada toll-free at 1 800 O-Canada (1-800-622-6232; teletypewriter: 1-800-926-9105), consult the Service Canada website at www.servicecanada.gc.ca or visit a local Service Canada Centre.

Employment Insurance Maternity and Parental Benefits for the Self-Employed

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will establish an expert panel to consult Canadians on how best to provide the self-employed with access to maternity and parental benefits under the Employment Insurance (EI) program.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

El is a national program providing eligible Canadians with up to 50 weeks of maternity and parental benefits. Claimants need the equivalent of 17 weeks of full-time work (600 insured hours) to qualify.

HOW IT WORKS

El maternity and parental benefits play a critical role in supporting Canadian families by providing temporary income support for working parents of newborn or newly adopted children.

The EI program is currently designed for workers in an employer-employee relationship and funded through employer and employee premiums. Self-employed fishers are the only group of self-employed workers currently covered by EI, and in their case the buyer of their catch takes on the role of the employer by paying the employer's portion of the EI premiums, filling out record-of-employment forms and maintaining records related to the self-employed fishers' earnings.

The expert panel will consult Canadians on how best to provide self-employed workers with access to El maternity and parental benefits.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

Information on the expert panel will be made available on the Human Resources and Skills Development Canada website at www.hrsdc.gc.ca.

For information on EI maternity and parental benefits, including application information, contact Service Canada toll-free at 1 800 0-Canada (1-800-622-6232; teletypewriter 1-800-926-9105), consult the Service Canada website at www.servicecanada.gc.ca or visit a local Service Canada Centre.

Employment Insurance Premium Rate

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will freeze the Employment Insurance (EI) premium rate for 2010 at \$1.73 per \$100 of insurable earnings—the same level as in 2009 and its lowest level since 1982. Keeping the EI premium at the same level in 2009 and 2010, rather than raising it to the break-even level, will achieve a projected combined economic stimulus of \$4.5 billion.

Canada enjoys some of the lowest payroll taxes among countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, providing a competitive advantage to employees and their employers. The new measure ensures that premium rates for workers and employers will not increase during the economic downturn.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The El program is funded through employer and employee premiums paid on insurable earnings. As of January 1, 2009, the employee rate per \$100 of insurable earnings is \$1.73. Employers contribute 1.4 times the employee's premiums. The rate is different in Quebec than in the rest of Canada because Quebec has assumed responsibility for maternity and paternal benefits.

HOW IT WORKS

The Canada Employment Insurance Commission (CEIC) set the EI premium rate for 2009. In Budget 2009, the Government froze the EI premium rate for 2010 at \$1.73 per \$100—the same rate as 2008 and 2009. For 2011 and beyond, the Canada Employment Insurance Financing Board (CEIFB)—announced in Budget 2008—will begin setting premium rates on a break-even basis. To ensure that premium rate increases are gradual enough to support a strong economic turnaround, the CEIFB will be mandated not to recover any EI costs associated with the enhanced EI measures and training announced in Canada's Economic Action Plan, estimated at \$2.9 billion.

WHO WILL BENEFIT

All workers and employers who pay El premiums will benefit from the decision to freeze El premium rates.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For information on the collection of El premiums, including what constitutes insurable employment, please visit the Canada Revenue Agency website at www.cra.gc.ca.

For information on the CEIC, CEIFB and annual reports on the EI premium rate and maximum insurable earnings, please visit the Human Resources and Skills Development Canada website at www.hrsdc.gc.ca.

Enhancing the Working Income Tax Benefit

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government aims to further supplement the earnings of low-income workers through the Working Income Tax Benefit (WITB). The measure will help ensure that these individuals are financially better off by getting a job. The enhancement will provide additional tax relief of \$580 million for 2009 and subsequent taxation years.

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

In Budget 2007, the government introduced the WITB as a refundable tax credit that helps make work more rewarding and attractive for low-income Canadians. Close to 1 million Canadians benefited from the WITB in 2007. The \$580-million enhancement to the WITB builds on this important first step.

Based on the example presented in Budget 2009, the enhanced WITB will be available on earnings above \$3,000. For single individuals the maximum benefit will be \$925, and benefits will be phased out at a net income of \$16,667. For single parents and couples the maximum benefit will be \$1,680, and benefits will be phased out at a net income of \$25,700. The WITB also includes a supplement for low-income working Canadians with disabilities, as these individuals generally face even greater barriers to workforce participation.

The government recognizes the important role played by provinces and territories in providing basic income support. Consequently, it is consulting with provinces and territories before implementing the final design of the WITB. These jurisdictions continue to have flexibility in making jurisdiction-specific changes to the design of the WITB, based on principles set out in Budget 2007. Quebec, British Columbia and Nunavut have already taken advantage of this flexibility.

HOW IT WORKS

Eligible Canadians will benefit from the enhanced WITB when they file their 2009 tax returns.

WHO WILL BENEFIT

The WITB is generally available to individuals aged 19 and older who are not attending school full-time and whose income is within the eligibility range. It is expected to benefit 1.5 million Canadians.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please consult the Department of Finance Canada website at www.fin.gc.ca or the Canada Revenue Agency website at www.cra-arc.gc.ca.

Federal Public Service Student Employment Programs

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will provide funding of \$20 million over the next two years to enhance student employment in the federal public service, \$10 million to be allocated in 2009-2010 and the remaining \$10 million in 2010-2011.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMS

The government operates three programs to help Canadian students from all parts of the country gain valuable skills and work experience within the public service. These programs are the Federal Student Work Experience Program, the Co-operative Education and Internship Program, and the Research Affiliate Program. Students who complete these programs may be hired or "bridged" into a wide range of public service jobs.

These programs help create employment opportunities for students, as well as prepare them for the workforce of tomorrow through work experience and learning opportunities.

In 2007-2008, over 23,000 Canadian students were hired through these programs. The additional funds provided through Canada's Economic Action Plan will provide opportunities for approximately 2,000 additional students over two years.

HOW IT WORKS

The new funding will be used to cover student salaries. Over two fiscal years, the funding will be allocated directly to departments and agencies across the federal public service, including separate employers, enabling them to hire more students than they had previously planned.

As with student hiring in general, this initiative supports the normal regional distribution of student jobs within government, with at least 60 percent of the jobs located outside the National Capital Region.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Students from across the country can apply for federal public service student employment programs.

This initiative will also benefit regional economies by creating additional jobs across Canada, thus stimulating the economy and helping young Canadians avoid potential labour market disruptions.

HOW TO APPLY

Students can apply for federal student employment programs by visiting www.jobs-emplois.gc.ca/stud-etud/jobs-postes-eng.htm.

First Nations Child and Family Services

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is investing \$20 million over the next two years to move forward with implementing concrete changes in child and family services on reserves, together with willing provinces and First Nations partners. This approach is based on the Alberta Response Model, which helps to ensure that families receive appropriate and timely child and family services, and which has proven that early intervention, prevention and permanent placement provide concrete results. A tripartite agreement was signed in Alberta in April 2007, and this past year agreements were reached in Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia to provide First Nations child and family services agencies with new resources for a similar prevention-focused approach.

This new funding will ensure further progress on this strategy through agreements with other provinces, and in the process will ensure more effective information gathering and enhanced accountability and reporting.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Details of this program are being developed. Please visit Canada's Economic Action Plan website at actionplan.gc.ca for up-to-date information.

Foreign Credential Recognition

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will invest \$50 million over the next two years in developing a framework to speed up the assessment and recognition of foreign qualifications. The government will work with provinces and territories to develop the common framework.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

With the support of the Foreign Credential Recognition Program (FCRP) and the Foreign Credentials Referral Office (FCRO), real progress is being made in addressing barriers to foreign credential recognition in Canada.

The FCRP helps integrate internationally trained workers into the workforce by working with key stakeholders to speed up the assessment and recognition of newcomers' qualifications. The FCRO helps internationally trained professionals access the information they need to get their credentials assessed as quickly as possible.

HOW IT WORKS

The framework on foreign credential recognition will help ensure foreign qualifications are recognized faster and in a more consistent way. It will also help newcomers integrate into the labour market more successfully.

The framework will establish:

- principles that the federal, provincial and territorial governments agree will guide the recognition of foreign credentials;
- standards for the timely treatment of people looking to have their qualifications recognized;
- which occupations will be the first priority for coordinated action to achieve standards for timeliness; and
- a consistent approach that would see applications for licensing and credential assessment processes increasingly begin overseas.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Professional organizations and industry groups that are responsible for regulating foreign credential recognition (e.g. professional engineering associations), as well as provincial governments, can apply for funding to support projects that will improve Canada's processes and systems for recognizing foreign credentials. Projects will aim to address the barriers to working in Canada faced by workers trained abroad, with the goal of ensuring that assessment processes are fair, accessible, coherent across jurisdictions, transparent and rigorous.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the Human Resources and Skills Development website at www.hrsdc.gc.ca.

Internet services for internationally trained immigrants can be found on the FCRO website at www.credentials.gc.ca.

Increases to the National Child Benefit Supplement and Canada Child Tax Benefit

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is raising the income levels at which the National Child Benefit supplement (NCBs) for low-income families and the base benefit under the Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB) are phased out.

This initiative will provide families with children with additional benefits estimated at \$230 million in 2009-2010 and \$310 million in 2010-2011.

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

Starting with the 2009-2010 benefit year, families with children will be able to earn an additional \$1,894 before their NCBs is fully phased out, or before their base benefit under the CCTB begins to be phased out. This will result in additional benefits of up to \$436 per year for a low-income family with two children, and up to \$76 per year for a middle-income family with two children.

HOW IT WORKS

Increased payments under the NCBs and the base benefit under the CCTB will take effect for the 2009-2010 benefit year, and benefits will be paid automatically by the Canada Revenue Agency starting with the first payment of the benefit year on July 1, 2009. Benefit levels are based on families' incomes for 2008.

WHO WILL BENEFIT

These increases will provide additional benefits for 2.4 million low- and middle-income Canadian families with children.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please consult the Department of Finance Canada website at www.fin.gc.ca or the Canada Revenue Agency website at www.cra-arc.gc.ca.

Labour Market Development Agreements

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is investing an additional \$1 billion over two years under existing Labour Market Development Agreements (LMDAs) with provinces and territories. This measure will help respond to the higher demand for labour market programs and training due to increased unemployment, by providing training to an additional 100,000 individuals who are eligible for Employment Insurance (EI) benefits. The additional investment will also help address employers' demands for skilled workers.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Through LMDAs, the Government of Canada currently provides provinces and territories with \$1.95 billion annually to offer employment programming to El-eligible clients. Every year, this funding helps about 600,000 unemployed Canadians to upgrade their skills, get on-the-job experience, find a job or become self-employed. Through these agreements, provinces and territories design and deliver programs to meet their local needs.

HOW IT WORKS

Additional funding for LMDAs was made available in April 2009. Agreements are being negotiated and signed with provinces and territories.

LMDA programs are administered directly by the following provinces or territories: New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Northwest Territories, Nunavut and British Columbia.

Service Canada delivers employment assistance services and other employment benefits and support measures in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Yukon. New LMDAs for direct administration by provinces have been signed with all these jurisdictions except Yukon and will come into effect during 2009.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Canadians who have current El claims or claims that ended in the last three years, or parents who have collected El maternity or parental benefits in the last five years, after which they left the labour market to care for children and are now returning to the labour market, are eligible.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

Residents of Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Yukon should consult the Government of Canada's JobsEtc. website at www.jobsetc.gc.ca.

Residents of New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Northwest Territories, Nunavut and British Columbia should consult their provincial or territorial government's website.

Strategic Training and Transition Fund

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is investing \$500 million in a two-year Strategic Training and Transition Fund (STTF). The fund will support provincial and territorial initiatives that help workers retrain to retain employment or transition to new jobs in communities and sectors affected by the economic downturn. It will also ensure that individuals affected by the downturn are eligible to participate in the training or other employment initiatives that they need during difficult times.

ABOUT THE FUND

The STTF complements existing Labour Market Agreements (LMAs) and Labour Market Development Agreements (LMDAs). However, it is intended to be broader in scope, objectives and application in order to inject immediate stimulus, promote long-term growth and help Canadians cope with a tightening job market. Its broader approach will give provinces and territories more flexibility to support job transition, create opportunities for employment, enable community self-reliance, and support skills upgrading and training, including employer-based training. Up to 50,000 individuals are expected to benefit from the fund.

HOW IT WORKS

The STTF funding will enable provinces and territories to increase access to skills and employment programs through their existing LMAs to respond to the impacts of the economic downturn. STTF funding will be provided according to each jurisdiction's share of the unemployed across Canada.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

In contrast to LMAs and LMDAs, supports under the STTF will be available to individuals regardless of whether they are eligible for Employment Insurance. In some cases, employed Canadians may also be eligible, with a particular focus on low-skilled workers and those in communities or sectors affected by the downturn.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please consult the relevant provincial or territorial government website.

Targeted Initiative for Older Workers

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is providing increased funding of \$60 million for the Targeted Initiative for Older Workers (TIOW) over three years. The increased funding will enable more older workers to receive the specialized support they need to transition to new jobs. Up to 6,000 additional participants could benefit from the increased funding.

The Economic Action Plan also included a change in criteria that will increase the number of communities in which the TIOW operates.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The TIOW is a federal-provincial/territorial cost-shared initiative that provides employment assistance services and employability improvement activities (such as skills upgrading and work experience) to unemployed older workers aged 55 to 64 living in vulnerable communities. To date, over 4,000 workers have been helped through the TIOW.

HOW IT WORKS

Under Canada's Economic Action Plan, the TIOW will target an even broader range of communities. Cities and towns with populations of less than 250,000, and that are experiencing ongoing high unemployment or a high reliance on one employer or industry affected by downsizing or closure, will be eligible, even those located in larger census metropolitan areas. With this change, an additional 250 communities could be included in the program, depending on provincial/territorial participation.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

The TIOW focuses on older workers aged 55 to 64 who are unemployed, are legally entitled to work in Canada, require new or enhanced skills to successfully transition into new employment and live in an eligible community. In exceptional circumstances, unemployed workers aged 50 to 54 or 65 and over may participate.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

Please consult the Human Resources and Skills Development Canada website at www.hrsdc.gc.ca or visit the the website of your provincial/territorial government.

Wage Earner Protection Program

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will expand the coverage for wages under the Wage Earner Protection Program (WEPP) to include unpaid severance pay and termination pay. This means further assistance to Canadian workers facing financial pressure due to job losses from bankruptcy. An additional \$25 million is committed to include new amounts eligible for payments.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The WEPP provides timely payment of eligible wages owing to workers who have lost their jobs because their employer has gone bankrupt or become subject to receivership. Eligible wages include salaries, commissions, vacation pay, termination pay and severance pay.

HOW IT WORKS

The trustee or receiver assigned to manage the bankruptcy or receivership will provide information to the worker on any amounts that are owed. The worker will file a proof of claim with the trustee or receiver and then submit an application for payment to Service Canada.

The maximum amount the worker can receive is an amount equaling four weeks' maximum insurable earnings under the *Employment Insurance Act* (currently about \$3,250).

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Any worker who meets all of the following criteria can apply: the employment has ended; the employee is owed eligible wages for the six-month period ending on the date of the bankruptcy or receivership; and the former employer must have been formally declared bankrupt or must be subject to receivership under the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please call the Service Canada dedicated toll-free information line 1-866-683-6516 (TTY: 1-800-926-9105), or visit the Service Canada website www.servicecanada.gc.ca or the Labour Program website www.labour.gc.ca.

Work Sharing

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will, over the next two years, extend the duration of work-sharing agreements by 14 weeks to a maximum of 52 weeks, and increase access to work-sharing agreements through greater flexibility in the qualifying criteria while streamlining processes for employers. This means that more Canadians can continue working while companies experience a temporary slowdown and recover. This initiative will cost an estimated \$200 million.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Work sharing is designed to help companies facing a temporary slowdown in business avoid layoffs by offering Employment Insurance Part I income support to workers willing to work a reduced workweek while their employer recovers. This measure enables employers to retain employees and avoid expensive rehiring and retraining costs. Employees are able to continue working and keep their skills up to date.

HOW IT WORKS

Work sharing involves a three-party agreement between employers, employees and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC)/Service Canada.

The employer is responsible for setting up a schedule of work hours and notifying HRSDC/Service Canada officials of any changes in the time worked and the number of employees on work sharing. Work-sharing agreements do not affect workers' rights to regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits if they happen to be laid off after the agreement ends.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

To be eligible, the employer must have been in business in Canada for at least two years and be able to show that the need for reduced hours is temporary and unavoidable—not a seasonal situation. The employer must produce a recovery plan detailing how it will remain viable during the period of the agreement and recover as the economy strengthens.

To qualify for work sharing, permanent full- and part-time employees must be eligible to receive regular El benefits.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please consult the Service Canada website at www1.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/epb/sid/cia/grants/ws/desc_ws.shtml.

YMCA and YWCA Grants for Youth Internships

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government has announced plans to provide a one-time grant of \$15 million to the YMCA and YWCA to place unemployed youth aged 15 to 30 years in internships with not-for-profit and community services organizations with a focus on environmental projects.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The internships will help young Canadians develop their skills and gain the work experience needed to secure future employment. It is expected that 800 to 1,000 internships will be created across Canada.

HOW IT WORKS

Details on how the program will work are still being finalized with the YMCA and YWCA. The first internships are expected to begin at the end of June 2009.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Youth participants must be unemployed, between 15 and 30 years of age, and legally entitled to work in Canada in accordance with relevant provincial/territorial legislation and regulations.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

As details become available, information will be posted on the Service Canada website at www.servicecanada.ca under Youth and Students.



Strengthening the Financial System and Improving Access to Credit

Business Credit Availability Program

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is making it easier for businesses to obtain credit during this period of economic uncertainty. Under the Business Credit Availability Program, two financial Crown corporations—Export Development Canada (EDC) and the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC)—will work with private sector financial institutions to provide loans and other forms of credit support to creditworthy businesses.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Through this program, EDC and BDC will provide at least \$5 billion in additional loans and other forms of credit support and enhancement at market rates to businesses with viable business models whose access to financing would otherwise be restricted. Close cooperation between the financial Crown corporations and private sector financial institutions will help fill gaps in market access and lever additional lending by private sector institutions.

Participating private sector lenders have committed to:

- working with the financial Crown corporations to find solutions for creditworthy business clients who would otherwise have insufficient access to credit; and
- ensuring that the extension of credit by financial Crown corporations is incremental for Canadian businesses and does not displace or substitute for private credit in aggregate.

HOW IT WORKS

The Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) is a joint effort between EDC, BDC and Canadian financial institutions. The program is being facilitated by a steering group made up of senior representatives from government, the financial Crown corporations and private sector lenders, which met for the second time in early March. BCAP is already showing early results. Business referrals to the financial Crown corporations have increased, and EDC and BDC have developed a referral and coordination mechanism governing their activities in the domestic market. Discussions are also underway at senior levels between EDC and private sector insurers to determine how EDC can work with private sector insurers to support the provision of accounts receivable insurance during this difficult period.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Any creditworthy Canadian business seeking financing to support its operations and preserve jobs may apply for credit under BCAP Canadian businesses should first call their financial institutions to see how BCAP can apply to them. In some cases, they will be referred to BDC or EDC. Businesses can also choose to contact BDC or EDC directly if they have an existing relationship.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please consult the BDC and EDC websites at www.bdc.ca and www.edc.ca. BDC's role is to help build the capacity of Canadian entrepreneurs, with a special focus on small and medium-sized businesses. It provides term financing of up to \$75 million. EDC's role is to foster Canada's trade through financing and risk management solutions.

Canada Small Business Financing Program

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government increased the maximum loan amount under the Canada Small Business Financing Program (CSBFP) from \$250,000 to \$350,000 and to \$500,000 for real property. Lending institutions with a portfolio above \$500,000 will also be allowed to claim reimbursement on losses of up to 12 percent of the value of their portfolio, up from the current 10 percent. In addition, a package of regulatory amendments has been developed to ease the administrative burden of the program.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Canada Small Business Financing Program helps small and medium-sized enterprises access financing. Industry Canada administers the program in partnership with a network of private sector lenders, with over 1,200 points of service across all provinces and territories. Lenders are responsible for all credit decisions and for making the loans. As the government covers a portion of eligible losses due to default, the CSBFP encourages lenders to offer loans they would not otherwise make.

HOW IT WORKS

Financial institutions deliver the program. The government does not participate in lending decisions.

Entrepreneurs should discuss their business needs with a financial officer at any bank, caisse populaire or credit union in Canada. The financial officer will review the business proposal and make a decision on the loan application. Once the decision is made to offer financing under the program, the financial institution will register the loan with Industry Canada.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Eligible institutions include small businesses operating for profit in Canada, with gross annual revenues of \$5 million or less, excluding farming businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and charitable and religious organizations.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please contact the Small Business Financing Directorate, Industry Canada, at 1-866-959-1699 (toll-free), 613-952-0290 (fax) or CSBFP-LFPEC@ic.gc.ca. Information is also available from the Industry Canada website at www.ic.gc.ca/csbfa.

Canadian Lenders Assurance Facility and Canadian Life Insurers Assurance Facility

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will provide insurance on the wholesale term borrowing of federally regulated deposit-taking institutions and life insurers to ensure that they can compete on a level playing field relative to foreign competitors.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMS

Many governments throughout the world have introduced debt guarantee programs to help their financial institutions raise funds in wholesale capital markets. The Canadian Lenders Assurance Facility (CLIAF) and the Canadian Life Insurers Assurance Facility (CLIAF) are temporary programs that will ensure that federally regulated deposit-taking institutions and life insurers are not put at a competitive disadvantage relative to foreign competitors when raising funds in wholesale markets.

The facilities are not meant to replace other funding options for Canadian financial institutions. Rather, they are being made available as a backstop in case conditions in global credit markets disrupt Canadian lenders' access to the funds they need to keep lending.

HOW IT WORKS

These are voluntary facilities. Eligible institutions wishing to issue insured debt under either facility will be required to enter an agreement with the Government of Canada confirming their acceptance of the terms and conditions for participating in the facility. The government will then offer a guarantee of timely payment for interest and principal payments for wholesale debt instruments that qualify for the facility. Financial institutions issuing under the facilities will pay a market-based fee on the amount of insured debt issued.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Federally regulated deposit-taking institutions are eligible to participate in the CLAF. Provincially regulated deposit-taking institutions are also eligible subject to approval by the Minister of Finance and an indemnity from the relevant provincial government.

All federally regulated life insurance companies are eligible for the CLIAF. Provincially regulated life insurers may participate subject to approval by the Minister of Finance and an indemnity from the relevant provincial government.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information on the Canadian Lenders Assurance Facility, including copies of the legal documentation, please consult the Department of Finance Canada website at www.fin.gc.ca/news08/08-090e.html.

The final term sheet and supporting documentation for the Canadian Life Insurance Assurance Facility are still being finalized and will be posted on the Department of Finance website when available.

Canadian Secured Credit Facility

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will purchase term asset-backed securities (ABS) backed by loans and leases on vehicles and equipment to help restart the ABS market in Canada. ABS purchases, managed by the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC), will provide the means for financial institutions to provide credit for businesses and consumers wanting to acquire vehicles or equipment.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Dislocations in global credit markets have raised wholesale borrowing costs for Canadian financial institutions and have sharply reduced the liquidity of private sector financial assets. Some segments of Canada's credit markets, including the ABS markets, have ceased to function well. There has been a significant repricing of risk in financial assets, increasing the cost to both business and consumer borrowers, and in some cases removing financial products from the market altogether.

The government will create the Canadian Secured Credit Facility (CSCF), with an allocation of up to \$12 billion, to help businesses and consumers access financing to purchase new vehicles and equipment. The CSCF will be implemented following consultations with potential participants and stakeholders.

HOW IT WORKS

The structure, design and operational aspects of the CSCF will be jointly developed by the Department of Finance Canada and BDC, with input from the consultation process.

Under the facility, BDC will purchase ABS that meet certain eligibility requirements from eligible sponsors that issue ABS. The CSCF will be subject to high standards for transparency and credit enhancement to protect the taxpayer. The facility will be run on a commercial basis and will therefore be expected to generate a positive return for the government.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Federally regulated financial institutions, provincially regulated financial institutions, subject to the approval of the Minister of Finance, and companies that commit to work with the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions to establish a plan to become subject to federal regulation will be eligible as sponsors able to sell ABS into the CSCF.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please refer to the February consultation document published on the BDC website at www.bdc.ca.

Extraordinary Financing Framework

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is taking action to keep credit restrictions from deepening the economic downturn in Canada by creating the Extraordinary Financing Framework. The Extraordinary Financing Framework embraces a number of new and existing initiatives totalling \$200 billion, with the overall aim of expanding the availability of credit and responding to gaps in credit markets.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Extraordinary Financing Framework is expected to generate a positive return for the government overall and therefore has no expected fiscal cost.

Interventions under the Extraordinary Financing Framework will aim to:

- provide financing on a commercial basis whenever possible;
- protect the taxpayer by controlling risk;
- encourage partnerships with the private sector; and
- restore confidence and encourage private sector lending.

New and existing initiatives are set out below:

- Insured Mortgage Purchase Program: The government will purchase up to \$125 billion in insured residential mortgage pools from Canadian financial institutions to help them continue lending to Canadian consumers and businesses.
- Legislative Initiatives to Provide More Flexibility to Financial Crowns: The availability of financing support for businesses through Export Development Canada (EDC) and the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) has been expanded.
- Business Credit Availability Program: Under this initiative, EDC and BDC, in conjunction with private sector lenders, will provide loans and other forms of credit support at market rates to creditworthy businesses.
- CMHC Loans to Municipalities for Housing-related Infrastructure: The government, through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), will provide up to \$2 billion over two years in direct, low-cost loans to municipalities for housing-related infrastructure.
- Short-term Loans to the Automotive Industry: In December 2008, the government committed to making available \$2.7 billion in short-term loans to Chrysler Canada Inc. and General Motors of Canada Ltd. as part of a \$4-billion joint federal-provincial loan facility.
- Canada Small Business Financing Program: The government will increase the maximum loan amounts from \$250,000 to \$350,000 and to \$500,000 for real property. It will also raise the limit on allowable losses that an individual financial institution can claim for reimbursement, which will increase from the current 10 percent to 12 percent.
- Canadian Secured Credit Facility: The government will support the purchase of up to \$12 billion in term asset-backed securities backed by loans and leases on vehicles and equipment.

- Canadian Lenders Assurance Facility and Canadian Life Insurers Assurance Facility: The
 government will provide insurance on the wholesale term borrowing of federally regulated
 deposit-taking institutions and life insurers to ensure that they are not put at a competitive
 disadvantage relative to foreign competitors.
- Modernization of Bank of Canada Authorities: In Budget 2008, the government modernized the authorities of the Bank of Canada to support the stability of the financial system. The bank has used this modernized framework to increase its provision of extraordinary liquidity through a number of facilities.
- 10-Year Canada Mortgage Bond: The government expanded the Canada Mortgage Bond program to include a 10-year maturity.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

Individual financial institutions can provide more information about their participation in these programs.

For more information on the Insured Mortgage Purchase Program and the 10-year Canada Mortgage Bond, please visit the CMHC website at www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca.

For more information on programs offered by EDC and BDC, please visit the agencies' websites at www.edc.ca and www.bdc.ca.

Greater Flexibility for the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is providing the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation (CDIC) with greater flexibility to safeguard financial stability in Canada. The government is also providing additional protection for the savings of Canadians. These additional tools are in keeping with Canada's commitments under the G7 and G20 plans of action to stabilize financial markets.

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

The recent global financial turmoil has demonstrated the wisdom of ensuring that the government is equipped with a broad range of flexible tools to safeguard financial stability. Moreover, it is important that the tools available in Canada keep up with new powers available across the G7. Accordingly, the government has proposed allowing CDIC to establish a bridge institution to help preserve the critical functions of a CDIC member that is no longer viable, and to hold or own shares in its member institutions, where this would promote the stability of the financial system in Canada. The government has also proposed designating tax-free savings accounts (TFSAs) as a separate category of deposits that are insurable by CDIC.

HOW IT WORKS

Subject to the approval of the Minister of Finance and/or Governor-in-Council, as appropriate to the circumstances, CDIC can apply its new authorities and resolution tools to weak or failing member financial institutions.

CDIC will automatically insure the eligible deposits of individuals held in a TFSA against the failure of a bank or financial institution that is a CDIC member. If a member institution were to fail, it will not be necessary for depositors to file claims with CDIC. CDIC will write to insured depositors advising them on how and when they will receive payment. Payments will be made as soon as possible (normally within two months), and will include principal and interest up to \$100,000 on eligible deposits.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

CDIC's new authorities and resolution tools to safeguard financial stability may be applied by CDIC to its member financial institutions.

CDIC will only insure TFSAs held at CDIC member financial institutions.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the CDIC website at www.cdic.ca.

Helping Consumers of Financial Products

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government will enhance consumer protection by strengthening disclosure requirements on federally regulated financial institutions that issue credit cards. The government will further enhance consumer protection by limiting business practices that do not benefit consumers and will move forward on measures to make mortgage insurance more transparent, understandable and affordable.

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

To help Canadian consumers of financial products have access to credit on terms that are fair and transparent, the government will enact regulations to:

- strengthen the disclosure requirements for federally regulated financial institutions that issue credit cards. Consumers will benefit from clearer and simpler summary information on credit card application forms and contracts, and from clearer and more timely advance notice of changes in rates and fees;
- enhance consumer protection by limiting business practices that do not benefit consumers.
 For example, the government will require a minimum grace period on new purchases made with a credit card and move to improve the debt collection practices of federally regulated financial institutions; and
- make mortgage insurance more transparent, understandable and affordable by enhancing disclosure to consumers about the characteristics of mortgage insurance and by making sure that consumers are charged no more for mortgage insurance than the true cost of obtaining that insurance.

HOW IT WORKS

With Royal Assent of the *Budget Implementation Act, 2009*, the government is in a position to move quickly to bring forward specific regulations for public comment.

WHO WILL BENEFIT

Canadians that use credit cards to make purchases or make use of insurance when buying a home will benefit from these initiatives.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please consult Chapter 3 of Canada's Economic Action Plan (Budget 2009) under the heading "New Measures to Help Consumers of Financial Products" at www.budget.gc.ca/2009/plan/bpc3a-eng.asp. Information is also available in the Department of Finance Canada news release "Government of Canada Takes Further Steps to Strengthen Housing Market" at www.fin.gc.ca/n08/08-056-eng.asp.

Insured Mortgage Purchase Program

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government aims to purchase up to \$125 billion of insured mortgage pools. This will provide long-term stable funding to lenders and help them continue lending to Canadian consumers and businesses.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The government purchases insured residential mortgage pools from Canadian financial institutions through reverse auctions administered by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). Participating financial institutions are thus able to access stable long-term financing in exchange for high-quality assets. As the mortgages that are purchased already carry government backing, they represent no additional risk to the taxpayer. The competitive auction process used to purchase the mortgages is also designed to protect the taxpayer by ensuring that the rate of return on the purchased mortgages exceeds the government's cost of borrowing.

HOW IT WORKS

CMHC sets the dates and terms of the reverse auctions, which are normally held once or twice a month. A schedule of planned auctions is published before each quarter. Only mortgages that are pooled under the National Housing Act Mortgage Backed Securities program are eligible. For each reverse auction, the minimum bid is set at a rate higher than the government's cost of borrowing. The rate is set at 9:40 a.m. on the date of the reverse auction, and bids must be received by 10:00 a.m. Funds are allocated beginning with the highest bid until the amount of available funding is depleted, with settlement five days following the reverse auction.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

All qualified issuers of mortgage-backed securities under the National Housing Act Mortgage Backed Securities program may participate. Other entities may participate indirectly through a qualified issuer.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please consult the CMHC website at www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca.

Moving Financial Literacy Forward

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government announced it will set up an independent task force to make recommendations on a cohesive national strategy on financial literacy.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

A strong and stable financial system depends on the ability of its users to make informed decisions, particularly when managing the risk associated with using credit. Financial literacy is an important life skill that empowers consumers to make the best financial decisions in their particular circumstances.

A number of initiatives are currently underway to improve financial literacy for Canadians, but it is time to better organize efforts among all stakeholders. The new task force will make recommendations to the Minister of Finance on how to achieve this coordination.

HOW IT WORKS

The task force will include representatives from the business and education sectors, volunteer organizations and academia, and will be supported by a federal secretariat. A positive outcome for the group will require the collaboration of the provinces, the private sector and community organizations. The task force is expected to be launched shortly and will work through 2009 and 2010.

WHO WILL BENEFIT

Every Canadian who uses financial products or services, such as a mortgage, banking account and credit cards, could benefit from this initiative. Current financial literacy efforts focus primarily on younger people.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please consult Chapter 3 of Canada's Economic Action Plan (Budget 2009) under the heading "New Measures to Help Consumers of Financial Products" at www.budget.gc.ca/2009/plan/bpc3a-eng.asp or visit the website of the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada at www.fcac-acfc.gc.ca.

Moving Toward a New Canadian Securities Regulator

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government aims to begin the transition to a Canadian securities regulator. The initiative is consistent with advice provided by the Expert Panel on Securities Regulation.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The government intends to move forward quickly with willing provinces and territories on instituting a Canadian securities regulator that respects constitutional jurisdiction, as well as regional interests and expertise. To facilitate the transition to a Canadian securities regulator, the government will establish and fund a Transition Office. In addition, the government intends to table a securities act this year that will allow willing provinces and territories to participate in the Canadian securities regulator.

HOW IT WORKS

The Canadian Securities Regulation Regime Transition Office Act was included in the Budget Implementation Act, 2009. The Act provides the legal authority and mandate for a Transition Office. The Budget Implementation Act, 2009 also includes authority for the Minister of Finance to make direct payments (in an aggregate amount not exceeding \$150 million) to provinces and territories for matters relating to the establishment of a Canadian securities regulation regime and a Canadian regulatory authority.

The Transition Office will be set up once the Canadian Securities Regulation Regime Transition Office Act comes into force. It will include nominees from willing provinces and territories and will be expected to deliver a transition plan within one year. The plan will ensure that the resources of securities regulators from willing provinces and territories are effectively integrated so that, for example, their employees can find jobs with the Canadian securities regulator.

The government also intends to table a securities act this year. The securities act will include guiding principles and core objectives with requirements for performance measurement against these objectives. The act will provide for greater investor input into policy making; better, more coordinated enforcement; and the creation of an independent adjudicative tribunal. It will also give a financial stability mandate to the Canadian securities regulator and integrate it into Canada's financial stability framework, which already includes Finance Canada, the Bank of Canada. the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions, the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

All provinces and territories are invited to participate with the government in the transition to a Canadian securities regulator.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please consult Chapter 3 of Canada's Economic Action Plan (Budget 2009) under the heading "A New Canadian Securities Regulator" at www.budget.gc.ca/2009/plan/bpc3a-eng.asp or visit the website of the Expert Panel on Securities Regulation at www.expertpanel.ca.

New Flexibilities and Resources for Financial Crown Corporations

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government has enhanced the resources and scope of action available to Export Development Canada (EDC) and the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) so that they can extend additional financing to viable Canadian businesses.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The government has implemented measures to allow both BDC and EDC to access higher levels of capital, which will enable them to better support the continued growth of viable Canadian businesses that are finding it hard to access credit in these tough economic times.

To further support EDC and ensure that it is well positioned to respond to the credit needs of Canadian companies, the government has also proposed three new measures:

- temporarily expanding EDC's mandate to enable it to support financing and insurance in the domestic market:
- enabling EDC to grow and enhance its guarantee and insurance programs for both export and domestic markets; and
- increasing the Canada Account limit from \$13 billion to \$20 billion.

HOW IT WORKS

The increases in the authorized capital limits of both BDC and EDC will allow the government to inject additional capital into its financial Crown corporations, should it be required in the future, to increase the availability of financing.

EDC will carry out its new mandate in the domestic market by working with Canada's private sector financial institutions to develop their ability to take on more business from creditworthy companies. EDC's role in these partnerships will be to respond to demand for credit from Canadian companies by either supporting or participating in existing private sector transactions that require additional capacity.

On domestic insurance, EDC will work with private sector insurers to increase their capacity to take on more business, such as the provision of domestic accounts receivables insurance and bonding.

On domestic financing, EDC will exercise its new powers through participation in the Business Credit Availability Program.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Any creditworthy Canadian business may apply to BDC or EDC for financing support. Interested businesses should contact BDC or EDC directly.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please visit the BDC and EDC websites at www.bdc.ca and www.edc.ca.

Protecting the Financial System from Illicit Financing

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is taking steps to protect the integrity of the financial system from threats posed by illicit financing.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The government is exploring the creation of new legislative powers that would better equip it to prevent specific abuses and threats to the integrity of the Canadian financial system, including those originating in jurisdictions vulnerable to illicit financing. Threats from illicit financing to the integrity of the financial system include money laundering, terrorist financing and financing for the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

New powers would also make Canada's anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing regime more consistent with international standards and the regimes of key partners. International standards specify the need for countries to be able to take legally enforceable countermeasures against jurisdictions that lack an effective anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing regime.

HOW IT WORKS

The government is exploring policy options that would provide new authorities to advise the financial sector of jurisdictions that pose illicit financing risks and to require appropriate countermeasures. These authorities could include requiring Canadian entities to conduct enhanced due diligence or systematically report transactions with identified jurisdictions. The new authorities would be consistent with international standards and best practices related to combatting illicit financing.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please consult the Department of Finance Canada website at www.fin.gc.ca or the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre website at www.fintrac.gc.ca.

Providing Temporary Relief for Pension Plans and Reviewing the Regulatory Framework

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

In Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government announced measures to provide temporary relief to federally regulated defined benefit pension plans during these tough economic times.

Companies that manage these pension plans are required to hold a certain level of assets against their liabilities to ensure that they are able to meet their future benefit payment obligations to plan members and pensioners. However, the value of many of these assets has fallen. To ensure that companies that manage such pension plans are able to meet their short-term obligations and invest for future growth, the government is temporarily allowing pension plans to fund any shortfall over a longer period subject to certain conditions to protect member benefits.

The federal government also announced that it would be holding public consultations on the federally regulated private pension framework. The government will use input from these consultations to shape any proposals to enhance the regulatory and legislative framework for federally regulated pension plans by the end of the year.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

On January 9, 2009, the government released a consultation document seeking views from Canadians on the legislative and regulatory framework for federally regulated pension plans. As part of the consultation process, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance is engaging with Canadians through public meetings that began on March 13 in Ottawa. Meetings have since been held in Halifax, Montreal and Toronto. Additional public meetings took place from April 14 to 17 in Vancouver, Whitehorse, Edmonton and Winnipeg. This consultation process will form the basis for any proposals to enhance the legislative and regulatory framework for federally regulated private pension plans.

Budget 2009 also announced measures to allow the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI) to temporarily provide increased funding flexibility for federally regulated pension plans. In response, OSFI announced that for the calculation to determine the funding shortfall of a particular pension plan, it would temporarily allow a smoothed value for plan assets to a maximum of 15 percent above the current market value rather than the existing limit of 10 percent.

On March 27, 2009, the government followed through on its commitments by issuing proposed regulations for a 30-day public comment to give federally regulated pension plans more time to fund their shortfalls subject to certain conditions.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Federally regulated defined benefit pension plans that are up to date with their payments will be able to make use of the temporary solvency funding relief measures.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

Draft regulations on pension plan relief measures are available for comment at the Department of Finance Canada website at www.fin.gc.ca/n08/09-032-eng.asp.

The consultation document on pension issues is available at the Department of Finance Canada website at www.fin.gc.ca/activty/consult/pensions-eng.asp, although the period for comment ended on March 16, 2009.

More information on the public consultations across Canada is available at the Department of Finance Canada website at www.fin.gc.ca/n08/09-023-eng.asp.

Strengthening Canada's Financial System

NEW IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is ensuring that it has a broad range of flexible tools to safeguard financial stability and to address potential problems in credit markets. Although the Canadian financial system has been among the most resilient in the world, it is important that the tools available in Canada keep up with the new powers available across the G7.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Budget Implementation Act, 2009 broadens the powers of the Minister of Finance under the Financial Administration Act to enter into transactions that include providing loans, lines of credit, and the provision and payment of guarantees. The Budget Implementation Act, 2009 also includes authority for the government to inject capital into federally regulated institutions.

HOW IT WORKS

The new powers will require the authorization of the Governor in Council.

The new powers of the Minister of Finance under the *Financial Administration Act* will be exercised only as needed to promote financial stability and maintain efficient and well functioning markets.

The authority for the government to inject capital into federally regulated institutions will be exercised only if the Minister of Finance determines—following consultations with the Superintendent of Financial Institutions, the Governor of the Bank of Canada and the Chair of Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation, and after consideration of other measures—that this will promote the stability of the financial system in Canada.

These standby authorities became effective with Royal Assent of the Budget Implementation Act, 2009.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please consult Chapter 3 of Canada's Economic Action Plan (Budget 2009) under the heading "Further Safeguards for Financial Stability" at www.budget.gc.ca/2009/plan/bpc3a-eng.asp and the "Statement by Minister of Finance on Implementation of the G7 Plan of Action" at www.fin.gc.ca/n08/08-079-eng.asp.



